THE TIMES

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● Prime Minister states war aim ● Defeat of Milosevic a 'moral imperative'

Blair: No compromises

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND CHARLES BREMNER

TONY BLAIR committed Nato to a moral crusade against President Milosevic yesterday, saying the bombing would continue until the Yugoslav leader had been forced to "step down".

Later it was made clear that the Prime Minister was not announcing a new Nato objective — the overthrow of Mr Milosevic — but saying that the defeat of the Yugoslav leader was a moral imperative.

On a visit to Nato headquarters in Brussels, Mr Blair said there would be no deals or compromises with Mr Milosevic after the "appalling" scenes of violence and brutality in Kosovo.

He said: "To see people herded on to trains and taken away from their homes and to hear the stories that those refugees have come back from Kosovo with — and heaven only knows what we shall find when we go into Kosovo — to hear those is to either awaken our conscience and make us act or is to say we have no conscience and no will to act in the face of something which is appalling and wrong."



Nato said yesterday it had received reports that about 700 Albanian boys as young as 14 had been taken from their families to be used as human shields and as "blood banks" for Serb war casualties.

Asked what the alliance would do now after four weeks of bombing had failed "to make Mr Milosevic step down", Mr Blair replied: "It is very simple, we carry on until he does step down."

The Prime Minister's aides swiftly added that he was not saying that Mr Milosevic should leave office but that he must back down and withdraw his forces from Kosovo.

Mr Blair's passionate attack on the conduct of Mr Milosevic's forces in Kosovo was clearly aimed at shoring up any doubts within the alliance about Nato's "just cause". His unequivocal backing for the air campaign was backed last night by Baroness Thatcher, who said the war had to be won and who advocated the use of ground troops.

As a reminder of Mr Milosevic's unpredictability, 300 Yugoslav soldiers crossed from Montenegro into a United Nations-monitored demilitarised zone in the Croatian Prevlaka peninsula yesterday. They seized the border control point from Montenegrin police and closed the Debeli Bridge border crossing with Croatia.

Croatia called for the troops to be withdrawn and urged the Security Council to ensure strict implementation of the resolutions covering the Prevlaka peninsula, south of Dubrovnik. The territory, which controls access to the Kotor inlet along the coast of Montenegro, where the Yugoslav Navy has a base, has been the cause of a longstanding dispute.

Nato revealed that Serb forces had begun to attack Albanians in Montenegro. Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said this was a "new and distressing development".

Serb forces and Albanian troops exchanged fire across the border yesterday in the first clash since the start of the Kosovo crisis. One Albanian soldier was reported injured.

It was also made clear yesterday that the focus of the Nato summit, starting in Washington on Friday, would be to underline the unity behind the air campaign, as well as to seek consensus for tightening the economic sanctions against Yugoslavia. In particular, there will be a demand for new measures to stop illegal oil supplies reaching Belgrade from ports in Montenegro.

The possibility of sending in ground forces into Kosovo is expected to be raised at the summit. Sandy Berger, the US National Security Adviser, said that Nato leaders would discuss it, although the alliance was unlikely to change its policy of airstrikes.

But Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons that it was possible to "conceive of circumstances in which it may be feasible to commit ground troops", provided they were not faced with "organised armed resistance" and the Serbs were withdrawing from Kosovo.

Mr Blair sent the same signals, drawing a distinction between a full land invasion against a robust Yugoslav Army and going in against troops severely damaged by weeks or months of Nato bombing.

War reports, pages 4-7
Simon Jenkins, page 22
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MIKE NELSON/AFP



American soldiers arriving at Tirana yesterday, the vanguard for several hundred paratroopers who will guard Apache helicopters in Albania

Cook's secret atrocity dossier

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN is to hand over all the intelligence it has acquired about atrocities and mass rapes committed by Serb troops in Kosovo to Judge Louise Arbour, prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said it would be the "largest release of intelligence material" ever authorised by the British Government.

Appearing at a joint press conference at the Ministry of Defence, Mr Cook said Britain had collated material on more than 50 separate incidents.

It included "not just the gruesome details of the incidents themselves, but the names of the units operating in the area at the time and the names of their commanders.

"We want to make sure that those brought to justice are not only the thugs who committed the crimes but those who gave the orders," Mr Cook said.

Although he did not explain how the material had been acquired, it is likely it has come from a combination of signals intelligence — eavesdropping on Yugoslav military communications — questioning of refugees and covert operations within the Yugoslav province.

Mr Cook said he had handed over more than 100 documents to Judge Arbour yesterday, which had been collected by the British Embassy in Belgrade in the months leading up to the present conflict. "This material provides a running commentary on a sustained campaign of brutality going back over the last year," Mr Cook said.

Judge Arbour made it clear that while she welcomed the support given to her by the Government and by other Nato governments, none of the intelligence material would be used in court unless it had been fully corroborated by other means.

She said this was crucial because the tribunal had to be seen as an independent legal body, and not one driven by a "political agenda". She would not confirm whether the United States had also offered to hand over intelligence.

But she indicated that without such covertly-acquired material, it would be difficult to build up the evidence to make a case stick because she had "no access to electronic surveillance or wire taps".

She refused to disclose whether she was investigating President Milosevic.

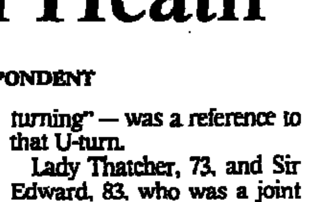
Another possible war crime was revealed yesterday when a Nato official said reports had been received of the Serbs using Albanian boys as young as 14 as "blood banks" for their injured soldiers.

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After 24 years, Thatcher seeks peace with Heath



BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher sought to end the longest running feud in British politics last night by publicly lavishing praise on Sir Edward Heath.

The former prime ministers have hardly exchanged a word since 1975, when Lady Thatcher succeeded Sir Edward as Tory leader. Lady Thatcher chose a party celebrating the 20th anniversary of her rise to power to bury the hatchet.

Before 1,000 guests at the Hilton Hotel on Park Lane in London, she referred to the feud with a joke at her own expense. She said that when she announced her candidacy for the Tory leadership, her husband, Denis, told her: "Good Lord! You must be mad, but I'll support you all the way". Lady Thatcher told the guests: "I suspect that Ted Heath, who has done us the great honour of being here tonight, would agree with at least half that statement."

She added: "I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ted as one of the most forceful and effective prime ministers. Go back and read his 1970 manifesto: it is one of the boldest and best the Conservative Party ever produced". It was "a document not for burning".

Tory historians were quick to point out the sting in the tale: many Tories never forgave Sir Edward for his U-turn on the 1970 manifesto when, two years later, he introduced an incomes policy and a new interventionist approach to industry. They pointed out that Lady Thatcher's famous remark — "This lady is not for turning" — was a reference to that U-turn.

Lady Thatcher, 73, and Sir Edward, 83, who was a joint guest of honour with William Hague, the current Tory leader, also appeared at a rare joint photocall for the press.

The feud began in 1975 with Sir Edward's resentment at losing the party leadership to Lady Thatcher. He was also unhappy when she subsequently failed to make him Foreign Secretary in 1979. They also clashed repeatedly over Europe, as they held entirely opposite views.

There was an early sign of rapprochement at the Tory party conference in October when the former leaders shared the platform.

Photograph, page 2



"We're very much hoping there might be a Roman warship in there"

Ships found, page 11

BBC bows to the regions

BBC Television's *Six O Clock News* is to introduce regional headlines to quell anger over the corporation's refusal to give Scotland its own news bulletin.....Page 8

Gunmen run riot in school

TWO men in black trench coats and masks walked into a Denver high school and opened fire indiscriminately at groups of children yesterday (Damian Whitworth writes). Several children were carried out covered in blood, but amid chaotic scenes it was uncertain if anybody had been killed.

Police were searching the school — Columbine High in Littleton — for the gunmen, who were believed still to be inside armed with automatic weapons. There were reports of explosions and a fire and some witnesses said that the men had been throwing grenades.

"We saw three people get shot," one girl said. "They were just shooting. They didn't care who they shot. They were just shooting. They were throwing grenades."

Down on the forest floor, a world doctrine stirs



Halfway through Foreign Office questions yesterday, a most unfortunate accident befell a backbench MP. A new Labour poodle's pager got stuck on auto-bleep and his confusion was pitiful.

This sketch is not certain that the victim was the ultra-loyalist Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee West). Nor was Madam Speaker. But her face turned to thunder as a continuous *whistling came from the* vague direction of the government benches. Mr Ross was seen fishing in his pocket, struggling with a tiny machine. Perhaps (like others) he was just checking. The bleeping combined with the squeaks and bellows of backbench MPs, triggered when the general wickedness of "abroad" is discussed. The sound was reminiscent of the Amazonian night.

Being creatures of the forest floor, MPs cannot always see whither their arguments tend. But, swinging in the vines above, we monkeys of the press sometimes can. Through the jungle noises it *was just possible to discern a* new tune: a new theory of world order. You could call it the Ashdown doctrine.

Answering Oona King (Lab, Bethnal Green & Bow) the Foreign Secretary repeated the British position: that when this war is over, it will be impossible to hand back Kosovo to *anyone*.

So what was to be done? Robin Cook did not use the word "protectorate" but described an administration *run by an alphabet soup of in*ternational bodies. Anagram-freaks advise that from UNO, EU and OSCE it is possible to construct "U cue noose".

Paddy Ashdown dares to say protectorate. He first used the term some three weeks ago. But the Liberal Democrats resisted the temptation to crow, "I told you so". Maybe in their minds they are moving forward to the next international protectorate.

Various candidates for this status suggested themselves yesterday. David Heath (Lib Dem, Somerton & Frome) was concerned about the protection of East Timor. MPs who joined the discussion lagged some way behind their own logic when they argued, first, that Timor was a European responsibility (of Portugal, the former colonial power); and, second, that its hapless population faced a humanitarian catastrophe at the hands of the Indonesian Government. Apparently the most appalling massacres have taken place: a kind of genocide.

So far MPs are arguing only for sanctions. "Cut off funds," one demanded. Ann Clywd (Lab, Cynon Valley), taking a break from her customary calls for Western protection for Turkish Kurds, wanted to pile the pressure on Indonesia. Nobody has yet suggested bombing Jakarta.

Then there was southern Lebanon. Backbenchers leapt in on this argument, some accusing Israel of illegal *settlements there, others* more sympathetic to the Israeli quest for security. Nicholas Soames (C, Sussex Mid) wanted a new European initiative. Sir Sydney Chapman (C, Chipping Barnet) wanted action to create a "demilitarised" zone.

There were worries about the Falklands. MPs did not reach the question from Tam Dalyell (Lab, Linlithgow), inquiring about the "humanitarian objectives" of the Iraqi no-fly zones (including the Kurdish safe-havens). Nor did we discover what the absent Jane Griffiths (Lab, Reading E) had intended to raise in her inquiry about "the Armenian genocide". For once, nobody asked about the humanitarian catastrophe in Sierra Leone. The war between Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan over the governance of Kashmir, however, came up more than once.

From his vine in the press gallery near the ceiling, this gibbon counted nine strong candidates for *the status* of "internationally mandated protectorate".

Down on the forest floor the idea has not yet occurred. It will.

Watchdog spells out supercrop dangers

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

COMMERCIAL genetically modified crops could ruin wildlife unless there is tight regulation, the Government's chief scientific adviser said yesterday.

Sir Robert May said they could intensify the dramatic postwar decline in songbirds, insects, wild flowers and hedgerows. The technology was the next "notch up in realising the dream of agriculture, from its birth 10,000 years ago, of growing crops that no one else eats but us".

This raised serious concerns about fields bereft of the weeds, seeds and bugs on which birds and wild animals depend.

Professor May said that he shared the concerns expressed by English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, and environmental groups. "High-intensity agriculture has increased yields and efficiency but has correspondingly made for great changes in the countryside. The thrust of GM crops is to accelerate this trend," he told the House of Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee.

But opting out of the worldwide drive to develop genetically modifed crops was not an option, he said. About 86 million acres, roughly one and a half times the size of Britain, were already producing such crops. Over the coming years a battle would be fought to produce more food to feed a booming world population.

Professor May said he believed that genetically modifed crops, producing more food with fewer herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers and less water, could be crucial in winning this war. The development of such crops could not be left in the hands of multinational biotechnology firms.

Britain needed to be a player on the world scene, helping to bring in controls and regulations that preserved the environment and maximised the potential rather than the profits from gene-altered crops. "I do not believe that what was good for General Motors was good for the United States and I do not believe what is good for Monsanto is good for the world," Professor May said.

He likened Britain's role on gene-altered crops to its role in helping to broker agreements on climate change in Kyoto, Japan, two years ago in the face of stiff opposition from the United States and the world's oil industry.

Britain should not replay its historical mistakes with such technologies as liquid crystal displays and the development of the computer, he told MPs. It should not miss out on a new industry and the prosperity and jobs that will arise, especially given the country's role in developing much of the basic science.

Professor May said that his views were "shades of grey rather than crisp black and white, which characterises far too much of the debate on GM foods and agriculture".

Some fears seemed misplaced, he said. Some scientists and wildlife groups had given warnings that genes from crops resistant to herbicides and insects could cross with wild plants to create superweeds. But 25,000 trials worldwide, including many in the United States, had failed to find evidence of that.

Letters, page 23

PROTEST BAN FAILS

A High Court judge turned down an application by Monsanto, the multinational biotechnology company, for injunctions against protesters who ripped up 200 gene-altered maize plants in Oxfordshire. Justice Klevan said yesterday they may have a defence. A full hearing follows in a few months.

MPs warned of terror virus

TERRORISTS may be creating genetically engineered viruses to spread deadly diseases through civilian populations, MPs were told yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes). Professor Sir Robert May, Tony Blair's scientific adviser, said: "I have little doubt that in Iran and Iraq people are thinking about doing nasty things."

Sir Robert, giving evidence to the House of Commons Environment Audit Select Committee, said that to those in chemistry, developments such as nuclear power could be used for good or evil. Genetic engineering had a similar potential for misuse to nuclear weapons or chemical or biological weapons.

"This whole technology could be bent to terrorist aims ... you could beef up the nastiness of viruses," said Sir Robert, who stressed that this had nothing to do with genetically modified crops.

He said, however, that creating a virus able to kill enough people to make it worthwhile for a terrorist or enemy government, was difficult, as such diseases were normally "self-limiting".

First signs of a thaw between between Lady Thatcher and Sir Edward Heath appeared in 1998 when they shared a Tory conference platform. Full story, Page 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoners return to crime in two years

More than half of prisoners released from jail are reconvicted of a serious offence within two years of walking out of the prison gates, according to a Home Office study published yesterday. Among young offenders, 76 per cent are reconvicted within two years, increasing to 85 per cent of those who were convicted of theft.

Almost 75 per cent of burglars released in 1994 were reconvicted within two years — one third of them for the same offence. There is little difference between reconviction rates of prisoners or those given probation or supervision orders. **Letters, page 23**

More complain about solicitors

Complaints to the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors are at a record level. From September 1997 to December 1998, there were 41,380, which Peter Ross, Office director, said was "jeopardising our ability to protect the public". It is six months before complaints are allocated to a case worker — a delay likely to double by 2000.

Lawrence man appears in court

David Norris, 22, of Chislehurst, Kent, a suspect in the Stephen Lawrence murder, was granted bail by Sevenoaks magistrates, charged with taking 32 cases of empty soda syphons worth £224 on Monday. He will appear in court next month with Jamie Acourt, another Lawrence suspect, and Danny Caetano, 23.

Man faces 15 sex assault charges

Sidney Cooke, 72, a former fairground worker, appeared before a judge at Reading Crown Court yesterday to face charges of serious sexual assaults on children and adults. He faces a total of 15 charges relating to offences that he allegedly committed between 1972 and 1980. He was remanded in custody.

Shipyard deal 'is weeks away'

Swan Hunter confirmed yesterday that it had moved to take over the threatened Kvaerner Govan yard in Glasgow, but that a deal is still weeks away. Norman Brownless, the Swan Hunter commercial manager, said a formal takeover of the yard, which employs about 1,200 shipbuilders, would take time to finalise.

NHS fails to check locums

Nine out of ten NHS trusts do not check the qualifications claimed by the locum doctors they employ and only one in five asks about criminal convictions, according to the Audit Commission. The consequence is that 35 per cent of all hospitals found locums were responsible for mistakes or poor performance last year.

Pressure grows on Woodhead

Pressure on Chris Woodhead, the Chief Schools Inspector, mounted when Derek Foster, Chairman of the Commons Education and Employment Select Committee, said that he should be dismissed. The Labour MP considered confidence in Mr Woodhead had been too damaged by allegations of an affair with a pupil.

AA faces queue of windfall drivers

THE AA is facing a stampede of carpetbaggers hoping to pick up a minor windfall if the motoring organisation is sold (Fraser Nelson writes).

The AA, which sells full membership from £43 a year, is understood to have received takeover approaches from Ford and other companies offering up to £1.5 billion.

If it agrees, its 4.4 million members — who still officially own the company — would receive payouts ranging between £230 and £340 each.

However, the AA's 5.2 million second-tier members, who are covered by their company or under somebody else's policy, would not receive a penny.

The AA yesterday refused to comment on yesterday's report in *The Times* that it had been contacted by a series of companies about a takeover.

It said it has no reason to alter its policy of granting full membership status to any motorist who takes out personal cover on an individual basis.

It said: "People should join the AA today for the same reason they would have yesterday: getting a first-class breakdown service.

Straw's Scouser joke backfires

By Russell Jenkins

JACK STRAW provoked anger on Merseyside last night when he told an audience discussing anti-crime measures that Scousers were always up to something.

The Home Secretary made the remarks at a question and answer session in Milton Keynes on the Government's Crime Reduction Bill. Referring to the Alley Gate scheme in the Edge Hill area of Liverpool which uses gates around houses to deter burglars, Mr Straw said: "I was told about the alley gate scheme. I thought: 'What the devil is this?'

"You know what Scousers are like, they are always up to something." Then he added quickly: "Please do not repeat that to anyone from Liverpool."

He was forced to apologise later when senior figures on Merseyside accused him of peddling ancient prejudices and tired stereotypes. Mike Storey, Liverpool City Council leader, said: "We can all take a joke but Jack Straw must know you cannot make comments like that.

"It is an affront and offence to Liverpool. His words just reinforce a prejudiced, stereotypical view about Liverpool people."

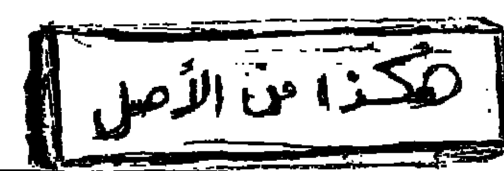
Trevor Hicks, chairman of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, said that the comments were an insult to the people of Liverpool. "It does not help the reputation of the people of Merseyside whether it was said off the cuff or not."

Merseyside Police has hailed a reduction in crime in recent years, and the city council announced plans yesterday to spend £300,000 on rebranding the city's image. The Liberal Democrats, who control the council, believe that the city is still suffering from two decades of Labour rule.

Mr Straw moved swiftly to make his peace with Merseysiders, claiming that as an Essex man he was usually the butt of jokes.

He said: "I was just talking to residents in Milton Keynes about the excellent alley gate project I had seen.

"I was extremely impressed by the hard work that many local people had done to ensure that the scheme was a success. Burglary rates in the area have fallen significantly."



Billy Bunter's weakness is no joke

Night eating syndrome should be treated as a serious illness, an expert says. Ian Murray reports

PEOPLE who steal down to the kitchen in the night to indulge in Billy Bunter-type feasts are not just greedy: they could be seriously ill.

Albert Stunkard, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert in eating disorders, told a conference in London yesterday that "night eating syndrome" should be classified alongside anorexia nervosa and bulimia as a serious illness.

Professor Stunkard, who has specialised in treating people with eating disorders for more than 40 years, said that 10 per cent of obese people and 1.5 per cent of the general population suffered from the night eating condition. Most, but not all, were obese.

Sufferers wake three or four times during the night and at least half the time cannot resist sneaking downstairs for biscuits or slices of cake. Between the end of dinner and breakfast, they consume half their daily intake of calories, 70 per cent in the form of carbohydrates.

On average, the sufferer will eat about 450 more calories than the recommended daily average of 2,000 for a woman and 2,500 for a man. "This is pure comfort food," Professor Stunkard told the Eating Disorders Conference. "They are eating to medicate themselves."

He said the illness is probably more common among men than women. Stress seems to be a trigger but, unlike other eating disorders, children and adolescents do not submit to it.

The typical sufferer, he said, gets up after a bad night's sleep and skips breakfast. Many still do not feel hungry enough to eat lunch, but by dinner time they begin to eat normally.

The meal, however, is little more than an *hors d'oeuvre*. It is only when the plates are cleared away that night eating syndrome sufferers really start to pile on the calories, trying to satisfy an almost uncontrollable craving for carbohydrates.

Professor Stunkard said he had carried out tests that showed that the sufferers' melatonin levels dropped at night. Melatonin is a hormone, normally secreted by the pineal gland in the brain during the night, which helps to control body rhythms, including sleep patterns. Lack of it is a cause of insomnia.

There was also a fall in levels of leptin, a hormone produced by fat cells that signal when the body has had enough to eat. A shortage means an individual does not know when to stop eating. At the same time there was an increase in cortisol, the hormone associated with stress and depression. The night eater tries instinctively to counter this by eating carbohydrates which push up production of serotonin, the hormone that controls mood.

Professor Stunkard said that trials were needed to find out whether patients treated with melatonin — not available in Britain — would be cured of their insomnia, thus breaking the cycle of night eating. "I don't think behavioural things like putting a lock on the fridge would work," he said. "Someone with night eating syndrome would get round that one."

He first published a paper suggesting the condition might exist in 1955, but this had been ridiculed until recently, when modern research into hormones pointed to the reality of its existence. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* is expected to publish his new, up-to-date paper on the subject this summer, finally making the condition recognised as a genuine, separate kind of eating disorder.

"The trouble is that we don't know very much about the condition yet because it has not been properly recognised," he said. "When it is we can expect progress in treating it."

ELVIS'S MIDNIGHT FEAST

The "Fool's Gold" Giant Sandwich

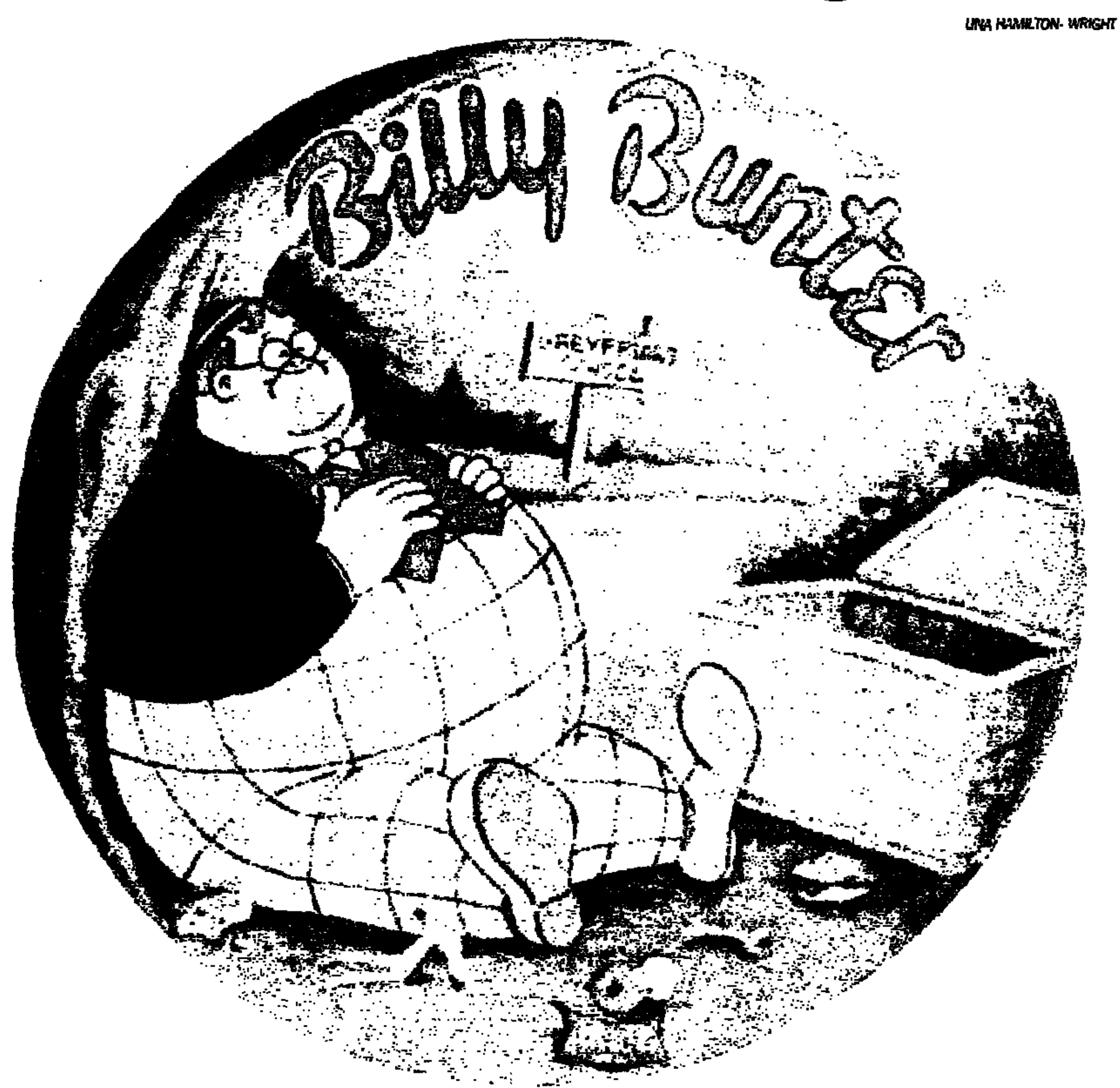
- 3 tablespoons of butter
- 1 large loaf of white bread
- 1 lb of bacon
- 1 large jar of smooth peanut butter
- 1 large jar of jam
- Mashed bananas

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spread butter generously over all sides of the loaf and place the bread on a baking sheet in the oven for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, fry the bacon until it is crisp. When the loaf is browned, slice lengthwise and scoop out some of the interior. Fill it with jam, peanut butter and banana, layered with bacon slices. Close the two halves of the loaf.

Recipe makes one serving (Elvis), or 8-10 servings (others) Calories: 42,000 (average recommended daily intake for a man is 2,500)

UNA HAMILTON-WRIGHT



Billy Bunter was happiest when his stomach was full, day or night. Night eaters probably eat only one meal a day

The lure of the larder looms large after dark



STUFFING and starving has always been one of the hallmarks of bulimic patients and they often supplement the periods of starvation by inducing vomiting and purgation. A variant of this behaviour is the night-eating syndrome.

Sufferers barely look at food throughout the day but when they return home and supper is cleared away, they empty the refrigerator, and possibly the deep freeze too. They gorge mostly on sweet carbohydrates: cakes, biscuits and bread.

Although the habit of night eating has been little described, doctors have, for as long as I can remember, been aware that there are patients who do this.

Diana, Princess of Wales, was well known as someone who was apt to raid the larder when the rest of the house was asleep, but a more notorious sufferer from night-eating syndrome was Robert Maxwell.

As a young man, the former chief of Mirror Group Newspapers remained comparatively svelte, but as he grew older he suddenly started to put on huge amounts of weight, despite a modest appetite throughout the day.

The scenes of gluttony that greeted his cleaners when they came to clear up the chairman's kitchen at *The Mirror* next morning are still described. Apparently two or three chickens which he had reduced to bones were left lying around and had served the same role as that of a cup of hot chocolate for an earlier generation in their battle against night starvation.

Elvis Presley was another who reserved his excesses for the night: by the early 1970s his weight had ballooned to 20 stone because of spectacular evening binges. He would eat nothing for most of the day, and then enjoy a breakfast fit for a king about 5 or 6pm. This involved buttermilk cakes and the "sweet treats" of fried white bread and jam sandwiches first made for him by his mother. But by the early hours of the morning his cravings became overpowering.

Midnight flights regularly arrived at Graceland, bearing obliging chefs to cook him fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches or the infamous "Fool's Gold" loaf. He could eat two of these at a sitting, even after snacks of hamburgers and pizza. Before morning he may have consumed up to 100,000 calories, equivalent to the daily needs of an Asian elephant.

Bulimia is likely to be associated with more generalised psychiatric disturbance than is anorexia nervosa. Whether night-eating syndrome deserves to be classified as a distinct entity is uncertain, but a description of the behavioural pattern and any associated physical changes is useful. It is unlikely that one simple remedy will cure this problem. These patients may well be rather disturbed and need careful assessment.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD



Robert Maxwell was a notorious night eater

Rigging claim scuppers hearing

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A NAVAL trial in Portsmouth was abandoned because the Navy's Chief Prosecutor, Commander Nick Hawkins, allegedly told an officer's wife that he had "rigged" the prosecution evidence against her husband.

Commander Hawkins has now left the Navy, and is currently head of the Crown Prosecution Service in Wiltshire. It is claimed that he made the remarks at his own retirement party, when he allegedly told Tracey Hawkes not to worry about her husband's pending prosecution.

Mrs Hawkes told a hearing that Commander Hawkins had said: "He will be okay, I have rigged the case."

Mrs Hawkes's husband, Lieutenant Jonathan Hawkes, was facing charges, along with another officer, Commander Wheeler. Judge Advocate Captain David Humphrey said the behaviour of Commander Hawkins was improper and the case against Commander Wheeler had to be dropped.

Woman must pay for lovers' gifts

BY SUSIE STEINER

A WEALTHY businessman yesterday won £10,000 from his former lover as payment for every item that he bought her during their three-year relationship.

William Parker, 51, went to court to claim £18,000 from Helen Holdsworth, including £1.75 for a lock for her lavatory door, £25 for a garden trellis and £4 for an oil filter. The items, he said, were a loan to Miss Holdsworth, 38, because she was in financial trouble.

Miss Holdsworth, who has two children, one of whom Mr Parker has admitted is probably his, said outside the court: "My enduring concerns will be for other single mothers and their children and for the doubt which is thrown upon the possibility of constructing human personal relationships founded upon mutual trust."

Mr Parker's original claim included £1,300 for a mortgage repayment, as well as sums for car repairs and renovations to her home.

Judge Bishop, agreeing the settlement at Kingston County Court, was told that Ms Holdsworth would have to take out a loan to pay the £10,000. However Mr Parker agreed to transfer a Volkswagen Golf that he had bought from Miss Holdsworth, back into her name. The bulk of her costs have been covered by legal aid.

Outside the court Mr Parker said that he had never been in love with Ms Holdsworth.

"I was in there for a bit of sex but I was also there to help someone in need," he said. "She agreed we would put it on a tab and she would pay me a lump sum rather than scrabbling about for £12.50. I don't see a moral issue here."



Miss Holdsworth was charged £1.75 for a lock

Party shocked by MP's secret trip

Leftwinger's unofficial journey to Belgrade is likely to result in a reprimand, writes **Andrew Pierce**

THE left-wing Labour MP Alice Mahon will be carpeted by party bosses for a secret trip to Belgrade without seeking permission.

Party leaders were astonished when the MP for Halifax disclosed details of her journey during a Commons speech in which she criticised her Government's support for Nato.

Even more perplexing for the Labour leadership was the disclosure that *The Mirror*, the traditionally Labour-supporting newspaper which has championed the military action, organised and partly financed the £850 excursion.

"I am not going to give figures. But *The Mirror* paid some and I paid some. It cost me £100 to £200," said Mrs Mahon. "I never accepted any hospitality from the Serbian Government. All I took was two cups of black coffee."

Challenged about why she had not sought party permission, Mrs Mahon was emphatic: "The whips would have tried to stop me. They would at least have applied heavy pressure."

While Downing Street defended the right of MPs to launch solo peace initiatives, Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, likened critics of the war effort to those who appeased Hitler.

"There were people who opposed action being taken against Hitler and I am ashamed that there are some members of the Labour Party who are saying things defending what the Serbs are doing," she said on BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*. "They are entitled to say it and I am entitled to think it."

An unrepentant Mrs Mahon was last night already discussing plans for a second trip to Yugoslavia at a meeting at Westminster of the Committee for Peace in the Balkans, which she chairs. "I came back even more convinced that the bombing will not work because ordinary Yugoslav families told me they will never give up," she said. But the weekend trip, accompanied by a journalist from *The Mirror*, which included two interviews for the state-controlled Serbian media, could well be the last.



Mahon: "I only want to help the refugees"

Not only were Labour whips bemused that they were not told in advance but the Foreign Office was concerned to discover Mrs Mahon had become only the second Western MP to visit the region since the bombs started dropping. The Foreign Office was anxious about security implications and the potential publicity premium for the propaganda-hungry Serbian authorities. One Whitehall source said: "We have to beware the risk of MPs unwittingly becoming the toast of Belgrade."

While the MP was coy about the costs, *The Mirror* confirmed that it paid Mrs Mahon's £584 air fare and £55 towards her hotel bill.

Piers Morgan, the Editor, said he was aware that Mrs Mahon was a bitter opponent of Tony Blair's policy. "When we were offered a visa into Yugoslavia it was too good an opportunity to miss," he said.

The MP and the journalist were taken by Serb government officials to sites damaged by bombs.

Mrs Mahon said yesterday: "I was not a help for Milosevic. I refused to meet him or any ministers. I only want to help the refugees to go home. I would walk a million miles if I thought it would help."

Mired in mud, page 7
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Tony Blair on a visit yesterday to Tornado crews who are flying sorties over Yugoslavia from Brüggen, Germany

Labour divided by passions of war

Party's wounds may not heal soon, **Roland Watson** writes

THE war in Kosovo has produced a split on the Labour Left that will take a long time to heal. Clare Short's denunciation of the 11 Labour MPs who voted against the Government in Monday's debate on the crisis as an "absolute disgrace to the party" illustrates not just the division but the strength of feeling behind it.

In calmer times many of the eleven would be considered political soulmates of the International Development Secretary. But the passion of their opposition to Nato's actions in Yugoslavia runs as fiercely as that of fellow leftwingers convinced that this is a just war.

Even the closest of friends find themselves on the opposite sides of the fence. Alice Mahon, a vigorous critic, has her office next to her close Westminster colleague Ann Clwyd, a passionate advocate.

The divisions are partly generational. Many of those opposed to the conflict learnt their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the authority of a fledgling United Nations could help preside over a new world order. Tony Benn, the former Cabinet minister and MP for Chesterfield, and Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, fall broadly into that category.

There is also a fiercely anti-American streak running through the opposition to the war, represented by George Galloway, MP for Glasgow Kelvin and Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North.

Other members of the 25-strong, hard left Campaign group arguing against Nato action — including Mrs Mahon, MP for Halifax; Alan Simpson, MP for Nottingham South; Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent; Audrey Wise, MP for Preston; and Neil Gerrard, MP for Walthamstow — are driven by a mixture of instinctive dislike of military action, concern about the legality of Nato's operation and fears for the civilian population of Belgrade.

Of the others who voted against the Government on Monday night, Bob Wareing (Liverpool West Derby), is a long-standing friend of Serbia. Bob Marshall-Andrews (Medway) is a maverick rather than a leftwinger.

Those members of the Campaign group who support the bombing tend to be younger. Many have come to politics from a background of social libertarianism rather than class conflict. They have also developed their beliefs during a time when belief in the supremacy of the nation-state has taken a knocking. "We now know that the notion of nationhood can often be used to cloak the most appalling crimes," said one Labour MP.

Support on the Left is also driven by feelings that Nato's enemies this time are fascist dictatorship and genocide. That is the line taken by Ken Livingstone and Harry Cohen, both Campaign members. Television pictures and newspaper reports of refugees that may evoke images of the Nazi Holocaust are also a critical factor among some MPs.

It is noted by some observers that those MPs with a high Muslim population in their constituencies tend to support the war strongly. But Denis MacShane said the Muslims in his Rotherham constituency had put him under little or no pressure.

Among the humanitarian arguments for intervention are concerns at the rape of ethnic Albanian women. Tess Kingham (Gloucester), a former international aid worker, told the Commons: "I strongly believe we had a moral imperative to intervene."

One MP claims the conflict amounts to "the first socialist war". He says: "This is a Christian alliance going to war with a Christian country in defence of Muslims and to help defeat totalitarianism and genocide. These are the kind of values that brought many of us into the movement."

BALKANS REBELS

The rebels, led by Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow) and Tony Benn, (Chesterfield), were: Jeremy Corbyn (Islington N); George Galloway (Glasgow Kelvin); Neil Gerrard (Walthamstow); Alice Mahon (Halifax); Bob Marshall-Andrews (Medway); Alan Simpson (Nottingham S); Llew Smith (Blaenau Gwent); Bob Wareing (Liverpool W Derby); Audrey Wise (Preston).

RAF saw civilians only after bombing

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN GIOIA DEL COLL

THE RAF confirmed yesterday that British Harriers had spotted civilian vehicles in the Kosovo convoy bombed by Nato planes last Wednesday, but said this was only after the bombing and, therefore, had no bearing on the decision by US pilots to call off the attack.

Reports this week said the Harriers, carrying out daily bombing sorties over Kosovo, had warned the lead F16 pilot that the convoy included civilians but had been ignored.

"This is not true", a spokesman said. "The Harriers arrived ... after the attack had been suspended. They also looked at the convoy and reported that it appeared to have possible civilian vehicles amongst it. In that sense they might have contributed to reinforcing a decision to suspend the attacks pending the arrival of the A10s".

US A10 pilots using binoculars confirmed there had been civilian casualties, Nato said.



Nervous start for Nato new boys

Central European recruits may soon regret they signed up, writes **Roger Boyes**

THE thump of Nato bombs battering Subotica, six miles from the Hungarian border, has brought home the price of alliance membership for the *new entrants* — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

As the Kosovo war rages on, the new boys are looking nervous. Participating in the Nato club was sold to their electorates as a relatively painless route to modernisation, as an affirmation of Western values and as a way of securing societies against an unstable, unpredictable Russia.

Instead, only weeks after signing up, Hungary finds itself on the front line, the Poles see an already hostile Belarus drawing closer to both Russia and Serbia, and the Czechs are worried that investor sentiment will turn against Central Europe and endanger the far more attractive goal of European Union membership.

Nato's 50th birthday celebrations this week were supposed *to put the new members in the* spotlight and present a fresh strategic vision for the post-Cold War era. Now the new partners are wondering what *they have got themselves into* and Nato is wondering whether its "open-door policy" towards Eastern candidates really amounts to a strategy at all.

Most worried of all are two countries on Nato's waiting list, Bulgaria and Romania. Ivan Kostov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, heads for *Brussels today to ask for "additional* security guarantees" from Nato. Bulgaria has opened *its airspace for Nato strikes* on Serbia and is coming under heavy criticism from the Socialist opposition; the popular mood is turning against the *war and against the Government*. Every day the country is losing nearly £1 million.

Romania, too, is suffering, above all from the blocking of *the Danube; every week of the* war it is losing £6.2 million in export earnings. If this is the price of Nato eventually accepting Romania, it is a high one, *paid well in advance. Romania* is trying very hard to make the grade. Its soldiers now double-march to a US Marine chant which has been adapted to say: "Green leaves on a noble trunk, I am a gendarme, a proud man. We are the gen*darmerie. Protecting democracy*." This may not qualify for any big musical awards but it does underline the effort being put behind every aspect of *Eastern Europe's military ad*aptation to the alliance.

As Janusz Onyszkiewicz, the Polish Defence Minister, says: "You can't change your geogra*phy but you can change your* geopolitics." That means, in the Polish case, shifting bases from the west of Poland to the east, teaching officers English, *kitting up soldiers with West*ern equipment, trimming the army from 220,000 to 180,000 and raising its professional component. That costs money and even taking into account Nato co-financing of the infrastructural improvements, Po*land and the other new allies* are in deficit. Airbases are being converted into golf courses, nuclear bunkers into wine cellars to help to pay the bills.

The sums add up for the new boys only if Nato membership brings a swift improvement in their security. For Hungary that seems far from *certain. There are 300,000 eth*nic Hungarians in the Vojvodina region of north Yugoslavia; they are terrified that Budapest might beat the Nato drum too *loudly* and turn Serb wrath against them once the Kosovo killing has stopped.

Novi Sad, populated by Serbs and Hungarians, has come under almost daily bombardment and any association with Nato draws contempt. *There are irredentists in Hun*gary who would want autonomy for Vojvodina should Kosovo gain independence. The Hungarian border zone, in oth*er words, is likely to stay unsta*ble for a long time. Budapest's contribution to the Nato campaign is correspondingly low.

The Czechs have reacted *churlishly to the air attacks*. While President Havel supports the war, Milos Zeman, the Prime Minister, and Vaclav Klaus, the House Speaker, *have expressed doubts* and criticised Nato sympathisers as "warmongers". Czechs were the least enthusiastic of the Central Europeans about Nato membership, partly because of the lukewarm attitude of their leaders, and are unhappy *about* the present war.

There were always two potential crises facing an enlarged Nato: a spreading Balkan war, and a post-Yeltsin succession *crisis* thrusting Russian nationalists into uncomfortable prominence. The new members were not sufficiently prepared for their alliance role in these crises and they are increasingly uneasy.

A Kosovo war that ends up redrawing frontiers will profoundly destabilise the region. There are ethnic Bulgarians in eastern Serbia, and Serbs and Hungarians in Romania. "The place is a proverbial powder keg and it could just blow up under Nato's southern flank," says a German military analyst in Bonn. "If, for example, *Kosovo is* partitioned, the Kosovo Albanian part will not be viable and will have to integrate economically with Albania proper. That, in turn, will put unbearable pressure on *Macedonia*. Greece — a Nato member — cannot be untouched by that."

Nato's open-door policy towards Eastern Europe, to be celebrated in Washington this week, has never looked more untenable.

☐ **Budapest:** President Göncz of Hungary will not be taking part in the Nato summit in Washington, his spokesman said, citing reasons of protocol. The delegation will be headed by the country's Prime Minister. *(AFP)*



Feeling the strain: Albanian children go home from school carrying a box of food sent by aid organisations to help families who have taken in refugees from Kosovo

Britain set for refugee intake

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE first refugees from the war in Kosovo are expected to arrive in Britain on Friday, the Government announced last night.

A group of 120 refugees, mainly women and children, will be flown *from Macedonia under* the United Nations' humanitarian evacuation plans. They include single parents under difficul*ties in the camps and oth*ers who cannot care for themselves.

Another 18 refugees in need of medical treatment, *and their* 121 *dependents*, are also to be flown to the UK.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "We have made clear *that* we stand by to respond positively to requests from the *UN High* Commissioner for Refugees, to take displaced persons from Kosovo on a temporary basis."

The refugees *will* arrive at Stansted airport and regional airports before being placed in reception centres run by the *Refugee* Council. They will then be moved into *permanent* accommodation.

Those arriving this week *will* be given permission to stay in the UK because they have close family members here, or will get 12 months' exceptional leave to enter.

BALKANS SUMMARY

Yugoslav towns emptied

Geneva: *Up to a million* people have left their homes in Yugoslavia to move to safer, rural areas as Nato airstrikes contin*ue, the International Red* Cross said. Towns in the southeast of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have become homes for *people who have left* their own communities, and Red Cross workers believe up to 50,000 displaced people could arrive *in* Vranje *if* the situation continues to deteriorate. *(AP)*

One killed at offices

Belgrade: One person was killed and two hurt in a Nato airstrike on Pristina as at least 20 explosions were heard in the Kosovo capital yesterday, *the* state news agency Tanjug reported. The dead *and* injured were at an administration building, in the Pristina suburb of Grmija, which was hit by a missile. Slatina air*port and a coalmine* were also targeted. *(AFP)*

Airport inspected

Prague: A group of US Air Force specialists inspected *an international* civilian airport at Mosnov, northern Moravia, which may be used to station Nato KC135 refuelling *planes to help* with airstrikes against Yugoslavia. The Czech Government has asked parliament to allow the use *of its airports and both* chambers are due to discuss the issue today. *(AP)*

US holds soldier

Massachusetts: The US has taken custody of a Yugoslav army officer captured by the KLA, the White House said. He was captured *last* Wednesday near Junik and delivered *to the* Albanian Government before being turned over to the US military. He is in good condition and will receive visits from the Red Cross and religious counsellors. *(AFP)*

Old scores put young state at risk of inferno

Tension in south Balkans could continue into next century, writes **Michael Binyon**

IF THE *Kosovo war leads* to the collapse of Macedonia, Europe will be faced with a general conflagration in the southern Balkans with fighting and *instability lasting well into the* next century.

With every week the war goes on, the danger grows. The fear is that the huge influx of *Albanian refugees will alter* the country's delicate ethnic balance, inflame tensions between the Serbs, Macedonians and Albanians and provoke *bloody massacres*. A Macedonian civil war could suck in Albania, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and even Turkey and would unleash an orgy of killing and the settling of ancient scores.

This is why the main aim of President Milosevic is to swamp his southern neighbour with Kosovan Albanians. This is why the normally tolerant Government in Skopje has behaved so harshly towards the refugees and *tried* to stop their influx. This is why the West is terrified that a pro-Serb uprising would throw Macedonia back *into the arms* of Mr Milosevic and deprive Nato of the only viable land base on which to mass troops.

Macedonia has been in the eye of the storm for almost a century. Both the 1912 and 1913 Balkan wars were fought over control of Macedonia, and the outcome arguably provoked the fatal shot that triggered the First World War. Bismarck once said: "Those who control the valley of the River Vardar in Macedonia are the masters of the Balkans." That is still true today.

The country is without clear borders, identity, *historical* legitimacy or even an agreed name. Officially still known as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, it has, since independence, been locked *in* argument with Greece over its claim to the ancient historical name, which it shares with northern Greece.

This dispute marred the birth of modern Macedonia in 1992, *when it opted* reluctantly for independence with a fragmented population and a dubious economic outlook. The virulent hostility of Athens, culminating in a trade and transit blockade, may have temporarily *forged a national* consensus, but it almost strangled Macedonia from the start.

Ironically, relations with Greece have improved so far and so fast that Skopje is now dependent on its southern neighbour for *economic* and political underpinning. Greek *and Macedonian* negotiators have reportedly achieved a breakthrough on the name — to be changed to Macedonia-Skopje. Greek sources say that Athens will sign a treaty when the political atmosphere is calmer.

With a population of only two million, today's Macedonia was largely an invention of the late President Tito, separated from *southern Serbia* to weaken Serb dominance in a federal Yugoslavia. Under the communists, the Albanian minority of 25 per cent was badly treated. Since independence, they have had more rights and freedoms.

But underlying tensions remain. The Orthodox Macedonians, whose language is virtually indistinguishable from Bulgarian, and a small number of Serbs hate and despise the Muslim Albanians. They see them *as* a fifth column, scheming to create a greater Albania. The Albanians, in turn, see Macedonia as part of a Slav-Orthodox plot *to crush their identity. There is* strong support for the Kosovo Liberation Army, and tonnes of weapons were smuggled into Albanian hands in west*ern Macedonia after weapons* stores were looted during the 1996 Albanian civil war.

Unlike 1912 or 1913, when the neighbouring countries *fought each other for control* of this remnant of the Ottoman empire, the surrounding governments know the cost of provoking trouble. Greeks *and Bulgarians have both his*torically coveted the territory.

But today Athens and Sofia are committed to keeping existing Balkans borders. They have offered *moral and mater*ial support to the Government of Ljupco Georgievski, dominated by moderate nationalists. But Serbia has a different agenda; and Albania, riven by instability, has little to lose by *intervention*.

The real danger is not outside meddling but internal collapse. If the majority fears a permanent increase in the Albanian population, it would look to Serbia for protection. It might *also turn on the* Albanians, with massacres that could draw in *neighbours* in an attempt to protect their ethnic kinsmen. A civil war would be even bloodier than the one in Bosnia. The region cannot afford a third Balkans war.



The flat was too small to swing a cat. So it was kicked, punched and burned instead.

When the vet inspected Raquel, he noted a fractured leg, broken ribs, blood swelling to the head and a ruptured abdomen.

The kind of injuries consistent with a road accident. Except this cat had never left her owner's flat.

You see, it wasn't a speeding vehicle that had struck her. It was a boot.

The rest of her injuries revealed a sad catalogue of suffering.

Severe burns. Scald lesions. Broken and fractured bones. Ruptures. Haematoma. Chronic arthritis caused by a fractured hock.

The owner assumed that Raquel, used to living in large houses, had incurred these injuries running round her cramped flat.

The owner's boyfriend, who was found guilty of the horrific attacks, was then sentenced to three months in an extremely cramped place of his own.

Last year, our inspectors investigated over 124,000 cruelty complaints. Thankfully, this one had a happy ending.

Under the RSPCA's care, Raquel made a good recovery and is now re-homed in a loving environment. She remains scared of men but is making steady progress.

RSPCA week runs until 25th April. Please join, support us or make a donation by calling 01403 223 284 during office hours.

Despite our best efforts, cruelty to cats is creeping up every year. But with your help, we are determined to reverse this trend.

RSPCA week

24 HOUR CRUELTY HOTLINE: 08705 555 999. THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS. WWW.RSPCA.ORG.UK



American troops move a campbed to drier ground at their Tirana base after the heavy rains that have turned parts of Albania into a quagmire

Americans meet their match in Albania's mudbath

Soldiers meet ancient scourge of armies, writes Damian Whitworth

THE age-old scourge of European battlefields has returned to haunt US troops arriving in Albania. They are attempting to set up camp in a mudbath.

The 3,000 ground troops sent to Tirana to prepare for the arrival and use of Apache helicopters have been severely hampered by the quagmire. The US Army has been attempting to set up a base from where it can operate missile launchers and despatch helicopters on missions to hunt Serb tanks and troops. But officers are concerned that heavy rain has created a scene reminiscent of the trenches in the First World War.

The sheep pasture in which Task Force Hawk is attempting to work has been renamed "Mud World". Trucks and missile launchers have become mired in ditches as troops struggle, and fail, to keep their feet in a sea of mud.

Few troops have failed to became caked in muck which, in the absence of adequate laundry facilities, has to be left to dry before being scraped off with penknives. Urgent requests have been made for fresh supplies of rubber boots.

Drainage ditches have become rivers and wading to the washrooms is pointless; once clean, the troops immediately become filthy again on the way back. "If we had a choice between a bath and gravel, we'd take gravel because by the time you get back from a bath, you're smashed again in mud," one officer said. "I've been in the military 20 years, and this is the muddiest I've ever seen," said another.

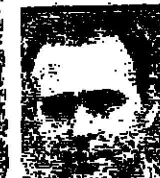
An American contractor has been called in to spread gravel in order to provide firm ground on which the missile launchers and the helicopters can stand. The 18 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems can fire short- and medium-range missiles at Serb forces; the helicopters, flying close to the ground, will then attack with Hellfire laser-guided missiles, rockets and guns.

The helicopters, which have been at the centre of controversy because it has taken more than two weeks to deploy them from Germany, are expected to begin flying in a week, despite the conditions. "There are high levels of mud. They [the troops] are contending with it and we will have the Apaches ready soon," Willaim Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said.

Nicosia: Greek Cypriot students walked out of their classes, marched to the United States Embassy and hurled eggs at the building to protest against the bombing.

About 2,000 students waved placards and chanted slogans saying "Nato, killer of children," and "Stop the bombing." *(AP)*

Prophets' visions comfort Belgrade



The superstitious Serbs are turning to seers who forecast the US will split in two over the conflict, Tom Walker writes

BILL CLINTON'S political career is over and America will shortly split in two, Serbs were assured yesterday in one of their favourite occult magazines, *Twilight Zone*. As the Nato bombardment drags on into its fifth week, residents of the capital are looking for alternative worlds in which to live, and soothsayers and prophets are doing brisk business.

The television stations are eagerly embracing the effort to build a metaphysical bunker against grim reality in a nation slowly being picked apart. Spasoje Vlajic, an author and prophet, told viewers of the pro-Milosevic BK channel two nights ago that Mr Clinton is in league with Satan, and that he has been excommunicated by his home parish in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mr Vlajic has become an overnight celebrity through his uncanny ability to convert names into numbers — and strangely Clinton, Albright and Blair all somehow add up to the same figure, 666. Their evil is being countered by divine intervention, and without hesitation Mr Vlajic provided the example of the Nato bombing raid that killed 16 civilians in the southern town of Aleksina. A day later, he claimed, dozens were killed in a traffic accident in Germany.

Serbs are a superstitious lot at the best of times, and their Orthodox religion includes a vibrant dose of pagan tradition. Ancient beliefs are now being vigorously called upon, and the divine spirit most prayed to is Elijah, or Ilija, patron saint of the weather and fondly known as "Ilija the thunder-maker". Many citizens have watched enough CNN and Sky television to know that storm clouds are normally enough to keep Nato's iron vultures at bay.

Books on Nostradamus are being snapped up along the Knez Mihailova shopping street, with many Serbs quoting the French physician as predicting that the Third World War will begin in June. On a similarly gloomy note, many are also recalling the 19th century sayings of Serbia's own Mitar Tarabic, who foresaw a calamitous leader plunging the nation into a hopeless war and inevitable defeat, after which "there will only be enough Serbs to stand under a plum tree". Revelling in their ability to suffer like no other Europeans, many Serbs apparently enjoy the thoughts of Nostradamus and Tarabic as much as those seers closer to the regime, who vow Kosovo will never be lost.

Today's rathy gaudy equivalent of Tarabic might be the transsexual Kleopatra, formerly a male singer in a popular Bosnian truck café but in her recent and buxom incarnation one of the most respected television prophets.

"Nothing good is going to happen and nothing good will happen all the way down to our great grandchildren," the towering blonde, who packs a pistol in her handbag, said in *Twilight Zone*. But Kleopatra, an acquaintance of President Milosevic's wife, Mira, knows on which side her bread is buttered and assured readers that after Kosovo peace talks "the President will stay in power."

Factory boss scoffs at 'anti-rich' raids

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

A DIRECTOR of a Serbian factory destroyed by airstrikes yesterday rejected Nato claims that it is weakening the regime of President Milosevic by blowing up state assets. The alliance says that the action is hitting his inner circle in the pocket.

One of the biggest industrial plants levelled by Nato is the Zastava car and lorry complex in Kragujevac, central Serbia. Anonymous Nato officials, who say that many state companies are controlled by those close to Mr Milosevic, cite Milan Beko, Zastava's director and formerly the minister for privatisation.

"This is unbelievable," said Mr Beko, one of Serbia's more flambuoyant entrepreneurs, last night. "You can't punish the 38,000 workers of Zastava just because someone is alleged to be close to the President. In that case Nato should say it is fighting Yugoslavia because of Milosevic, and not for humanitarian causes."

Opposition figures in Belgrade also ridiculed the Nato claim. "If they really want to destroy assets of the inner circle, they should bomb a couple of banks in Switzerland and on the Cayman Islands," an independent journalist said.

They pointed out that many Belgrade elite are already fantastically rich by Serbian standards and their grip on power would enable them to switch quickly from assets left moribund by Nato to more fertile profit opportunities.

FOR THE OTHER ANSWERS, GO TO PAGE 11

News at Six to cover regions in 12 seconds

The BBC's *Six O'Clock News* is to include regional headlines for the first time in its history to counter claims that it is London-biased and to quell anger over its refusal to grant Scotland its own separate news.

When the programme is relaunched next month the opening headlines will carry 12 seconds of news from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions. The headlines will be updated halfway through the programme and there will be regional weather and sports reports.

Huw Edwards, a Welshman, has been picked to anchor the new *Six O'Clock News*, beating candidates such as Anna Ford, Martyn Lewis and Jill Dando, in a move which some interpret as a response to devolution.

But the new format is unlikely to appease those who argued for a "devolved" *Six O'Clock News*. One BBC Scotland source said: "This is almost worse than nothing. Do those making the decisions in London not realise that a few seconds of headlines is a little bit patronising?"

A spokesman for the Scottish National Party added: "This is tokenistic and minimalist. It sounds like a pretty messy package which will end up pleasing nobody. The big mistake the BBC made was in

'Devolution' at the BBC is attacked as patronising, writes Carol Midgley

denying the Scottish people their own *Six O'Clock News*. It is no good now just cobbling something together."

Professor Lindsay Paterson, a member of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, resigned in disgust at the decision by the BBC governors not to allow a "Scottish Six". Eleven presenters, including Kenny McIntyre, BBC Scotland's political editor, and Ruth Wishart, a presenter of *Woman's Hour*, have accused the BBC of failing to keep pace with political change.

All viewers will see Mr Edwards introduce the main headlines. The focus will then switch to regional newsrooms for 12 seconds of local news, before returning to London. Another update from the regions, lasting a few seconds, will follow at 6.15pm.

Mark Popescu, Editor of the *Six O'Clock News*, said yesterday that the revamped programme would give more status to stories from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. He said he did not think it was his place to say whether there should be a "Scottish Six".

But he added: "I'm not surprised that people feel we have a metropolitan bias. The other night there were 16 stories on the *Six O'Clock News* and 12 of them were brought together in London. I think that is unacceptable.

"We want to relate to people's lives better. We are going to be more in touch and less institutional. We are building a new relationship with our regional outlets."

The BBC will also attempt to win back some of the ground it has lost in the coverage of sport recently by including a new Friday sports section within the bulletin, presented by Helen Rollason.

Ms Rollason, who is fighting cancer, is to preview the weekend sport in a five-minute package.

A new set is being built for the *Six O'Clock News* which, Mr Popescu said, would dispense with its traditional blue, which research has shown is regarded by the public as cold and distant. A new theme tune is being written by David Lowe for the relaunch on May 10.



Peter Baxter, producer of *Test Match Special*, said that the South African Cricket Board had "fobbed off" the BBC

Radio 4 loses winter cricket tour

By Carol Midgley
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC last night claimed that it was frozen out of the bidding for radio rights to the England cricket team's tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe this winter.

In a blow to BBC Sport, Radio 4's *Test Match Special* was trumped by the commercial station Talk Radio for the five-Test series. It will be the first time that ball-by-ball commentary has been carried by a commercial station.

The BBC, which has been accused of "throwing in the towel" on television sports coverage, said that it had not been allowed to enter the competition. Insiders said that the Talk Radio offer was so high that the South African Cricket Board did not consider any others.

"There was no open bidding process," a BBC spokesman said. "We were trying for months but the South African Cricket Board did not respond to our calls. It's very disappointing, but we are not seeing it as the end of the world."

Peter Baxter, the producer of *Test Match Special*, said: "Our negotiator was trying for months to secure these rights but was rather fobbed off. But we still have two years of our contract with the English Cricket Board, the World Cup and four Tests after that."

Last year Channel 4 outbid the BBC for rights to English Test Cricket for four years.

Kelvin MacKenzie, the head of Talk Radio, which is part-owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, said: "I personally approached the rights agent who did the deal. It was straightforward. I thought I was competing against the BBC. The fact that they didn't turn up for the fight is a problem they should be dealing with internally."

Talk Radio's commentary team for the five Tests and the one-day triangular tournament against South Africa and Zimbabwe will comprise the former England cricketers Geoffrey Boycott, John Emburey and Phil Tufnell.

Bell tries to keep Dyke out of BBC job

By Andrew Pierce

THE MP and former BBC journalist Martin Bell yesterday led an attempt at Westminster to stop the millionaire Labour Party donor Greg Dyke from becoming the next Director-General of the corporation.

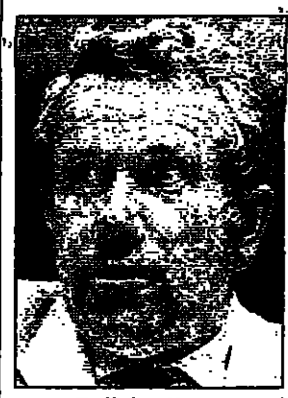
Mr Bell, the Independent member for Tatton, was at the top of a cross-party list of MPs that tabled an early day motion criticising Mr Dyke's candidacy. The former BBC governor Shahwar Sadeque also publicly disputed whether Mr Dyke had the credentials to run a public service broadcaster.

Mr Dyke, the chairman of Pearson Television, was encouraged to let his name go forward for the post by Downing Street, Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC chairman, and Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary. He has donated £50,000 to the Labour Party since 1994 after helping to fund Tony Blair's campaign for the party leadership that year.

The early day motion praised the contribution that Mr Dyke, a key figure at London Weekend Television in the 1980s, has made to the broadcasting industry, but said "his substantial financial donations to the Labour Party render him inappropriate to be the next Director-General."

Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, called on Mr Dyke to withdraw from the race. "It will remove the governors from the invidious position of having to assess a candidate who has been pushed for the job by the Prime Minister," he said.

Mr Sadeque, a BBC governor from 1990 until 1995, said: "The Director-General has the most important job to ensure there is no political interference . . . It is difficult to see how Greg Dyke can demonstrate the impartiality which is necessary."



Bell: leading a campaign by MPs

Rivals oppose fee for digital TV

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

COMMERCIAL broadcasters have combined to attack a proposal for an extra licence fee for digital television.

A charge of up to £35 a year, on top of the existing £101, is one of four options suggested by the BBC to a panel that is considering ways to increase the corporation's revenue.

The BBC Funding Review Panel, chaired by Gavyn Davies, a multimillionaire City economist, is believed to be sympathetic to the idea of a separate licence for receiving digital television.

In a letter to *The Times* today, commercial broadcasters say they are "strongly opposed" to the idea. The signatories, from companies including Granada and Carlton, argue that everyone from the Government to the electronics industry has worked to give the UK a world lead in developing digital television.

"The introduction of a higher digital licence fee would threaten the enormous progress made so far," they say.

"We therefore urge both the BBC Funding Review Panel and the Government to reject this idea, which would hinder the development of digital television and operate against the UK's wider industrial interests."

The three other ways of increasing revenue suggested by the BBC are raising the licence fee by more than the increase in the retail price index; linking the licence fee to gross domestic product; and requiring a licence for every set, rather than for each household.

The BBC said it was "neutral" on which proposal was chosen, but noted that a digital licence fee would bring "buoyancy" to licence fee revenue for a generation. The more people who subscribed to digital television, the more money the BBC would receive.

Letters, page 23

Ginseng revives flagging Prince at Seoul feast

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN SEOUL



The Duke of Edinburgh is caught on camera dangerously close to a catnap during the Queen's speech at last night's banquet. Photograph page 28

THE Queen was introduced yesterday to ginseng, a prized potion said to reduce blood pressure and improve stamina.

She was served it for dinner, but at the end of a long day it was the Duke of Edinburgh who looked most in need of its restorative powers.

Ginseng, served with cucumber and mustard sauce, was the first item on the menu at last night's state banquet here. The Queen remained alert and active after a day of greeting huge and admiring crowds, but the tired-eyed Duke nodded precariously close to the dinner table while his wife was making her keynote speech. He seemed to revive somewhat once he had consumed his magical starter.

On the second day of her state visit, the Queen found herself the object of adulation by virtually the entire student body of the world's largest all-female university. It was in the sharpest contrast to a visit she made several years ago to the campus at Aberystwyth, when hostile Welsh-speaking students forced her, for one of the few times in her reign, to cut short an engagement.

They are not so curmudgeonly in South Korea, where the visit has been accorded such high importance by the Government, that even last week's dress rehearsal took precedence on the television news over a state visit by President Mubarak of Egypt. After the formalities of the first day, yesterday was for the crowds.

In case it was all too much, the Queen's tour of Ewha Women's University included a laboratory where scientists were distilling ginseng to try to discover the secret of its restorative properties. The Queen showed interest, but did not sample it. They gave her a box to take away.

Over a carefully screened cup of tea, the Queen met some of the university's notable graduates including Im Eun Joo, 33, who is the world's first internationally qualified woman football referee, and Byun Young Joo, a film director. "We have just been seeing all the films about you on television, including your life story," Miss Byun said eagerly. "I'm afraid that's rather a long story," the Queen, 73 today, replied.

Even greater crowds, primed by a torrent of advanced media publicity, packed the narrow canyon of Insa-Dong, a traditional Seoul shopping street, as the Queen went walkabout. Police struggled to clear a path and curious faces peered from every upstairs window.

At a calligraphy shop she was presented with a scroll and two traditional seals with owl motifs. Across the street she visited a ceramics shop, signed her name on a white china plate with a calligraphy brush and came away with a gift of a handsome white tea pot. Then to a dress shop selling traditional outfits. There they gave her a turquoise shawl which she put on but declined an invitation to look at herself in the mirror. "No, I know that I look very nice," she said rather charmingly. The shawl was added to the day's booty.

Outside she met Kim Baek-Soon, a member of a local cultural preservation society attired in the extremely elaborate dress, complete with massive black wig, of a Korean queen of the Yi dynasty. By contrast, the Head of the Commonwealth looked like an ordinary lady on a shopping trip.

Gifts are not all one way, however. Yesterday the Queen made her host President Kim Dae Jung an honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, and gave him a pair of silver-framed photographs and a 19th-century print of Cambridge, where the President spent some time.

The state visit is largely about trade but there is much recognition of Britain's part in the Korean War, which has left the peninsula divided for nearly half a century. At the state banquet given by President Kim last night the Queen referred to current events nearer home. "At a time when hostilities are again very much on our minds in Europe, we in Britain recall that some 87,000 British servicemen and women, along with military contingents from other Commonwealth countries, fought in those three years of the Korean War, many as part of the Commonwealth Division. We must never forget that 1,078 made the ultimate sacrifice."

☐ **Porn warning:** The Duke of Edinburgh, saying that clever crooks and peddlers of pornography were exploiting the Internet, urged South Korea's business leaders to ensure that highly trained technology managers were also grounded in ethics and morality. *(PA)*

State Banquet Menu
At The Blue House Seoul
April 20, 1999

Fresh ginseng and cucumber with mustard sauce
Pine-nut porridge
Steamed sea-bream with five toppings
Casserole Shin-Sul-Ro (beef and vegetables, traditionally served to a king)
Broiled beef ribs and fresh vegetables
Steamed rice and beef soup
Fresh fruit
Persimmon punch

'Man-root' prized by Mongol rulers

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

GINSENG has a royal pedigree as great as the Queen's, since Mongol emperors ate the "king of herbs" in search of long life and an heir up to 4,000 years ago.

Then as now it is a symbol of Korea, but it has been much coveted by the Chinese for the effects of its Yang energy, some of which have now been proved scientifically.

Its name is derived from the Chinese for "man-root" because its 10in fleshy white tendrils often assume a human shape.

The older and bigger the root becomes the more human it looks. Although most are harvested after six years, in 1994 a farmer pulled up a 51in root claiming it was 600 years old. He was paid £140,000 for it in Beijing.

More than 12,000 tonnes of ginseng is produced annually, most from the damp woodlands of Korea.

Its power is the stuff of myth, with the best quality given to the Koryo kings in Korea as well as Chinese dynasties who prized it as an aphrodisiac and food for warriors.

Chinese herbalists use the root in tea as a tonic for the elderly. It affects the adrenal gland which produces stress-related hormones.

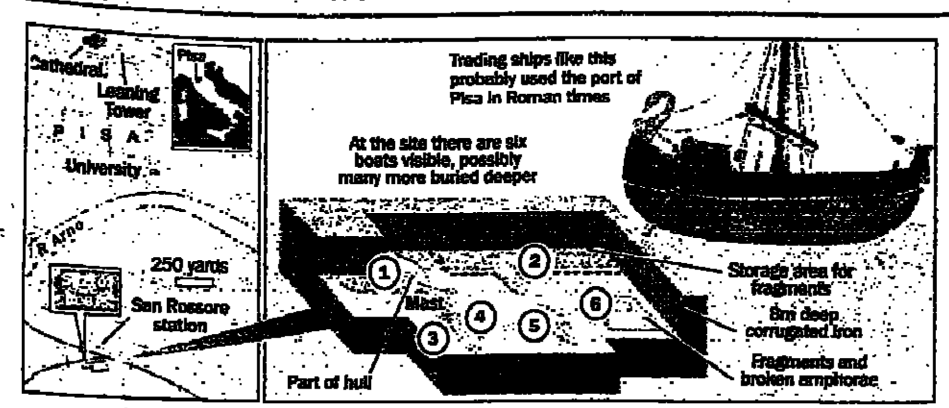
INVENSYS

THE BIGGEST COMPANY YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

You're forgiven. Invensys was only born on 4th February, the result of the merger between BTR and Siebe. But what a merger it is. Invensys is now a force to be reckoned with, having consolidated sales of £9 billion and a current market value of over £11 billion. It's already a worldwide leader in automation and controls. We are off to a remarkable start. But that's all it is – a start. Invensys will now be in an ideal position to combine the individual strengths of both BTR and Siebe and offer a more comprehensive package of products, systems and services to our customers. This might well be the first time you've ever heard the name Invensys. *But it certainly won't be the last.*

Invensys plc, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1BX, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 171 834 3848. Web site: www.invensys.com All amounts relate to BTR 12 months to 30th June 1998 and Siebe 12 months to 3rd Oct 1998. Market values as at close of trading on 5th April 1999.

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Roman ships dug from lost Pisa harbour

Scholars are celebrating a rare insight into maritime life 2,000 years ago, reports **Richard Owen** in Rome

One of the archaeologists recording details of the ships, described as outstandingly well-preserved. Photographs: Chris Warde-Jones

BRITISH and Italian classical scholars yesterday hailed the discovery of eight almost perfectly preserved Ancient Roman ships buried in the mud of what was once the harbour at Pisa as "an astonishing step back into the past" and a "rare insight into Rome as a maritime and trading power".

One wooden ship, with an elongated prow, is thought to have had a military purpose. "If confirmed, this will make it the first Roman warship ever found," said Stefano Bruni, the Tuscan archaeologist in charge of the dig.

Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, director of the British School at Rome, said that the ships were "extremely impressive, oustandingly well preserved, and in pristine condition ... I could hardly believe the wood before my eyes was not modern-day wood in a modern boat. It is as fresh as the day the ships sank. This is a very exciting find."

He said he believed that "perhaps a fifth of the boats have been uncovered ... there is even more to come".

Giovanna Melandri, the Minister of Culture, said the find was "of exceptional importance. The archaeologists have uncovered a marvel, both because of the state of preservation of the ships and the numbers involved ... the ancient port of Pisa has come to life before our eyes."

"The Roman fleet emerges from the mud of Pisa after two thousand years," said the headline in yesterday's *La Stampa*, noting that it was "extremely rare" to find Roman ships in such numbers. They range in length from eight yards to thirty yards.

> ‘Some may have foundered, others sunk in storms, and others went to the bottom in a flood’

The ships, which are believed to date from the third century BC to the fifth century AD, had all been anchored in a port at the confluence of the River Arno and the River Auser near the coast. The area has since silted up, and is several miles from the present coast.

The ships were discovered within an area one hundred and fifty yards square by workmen constructing a control centre at Pisa for the renovated high-speed railway line between Genoa and Rome. They were shown to the press yesterday at Pisa's San Rossore station, half a mile from the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Reconstruction of the railway station is being held up, but railway officials said that they were under pressure to resume work despite the prospect of more historic finds. San Rossore will not only control high-speed traffic but serve tourists visiting Pisa during the millennium.

"The Romans controlled the Mediterranean as if it was a lake," Professor Wallace-Hadrill said. "They called it Mare Nostrum — Our Sea — and these ships show the range of goods that was being traded in a culturally diverse area." He said that there were no giant grain ships of the kind that plied between Egypt and Rome among those uncovered. "I think what we are looking at here is a lagoon harbour which was probably linked to the coast by a canal. Big ships moored off the coast, and these smaller vessels unloaded goods and came up to Pisa.

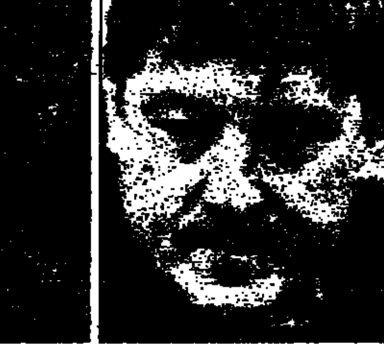
"They probably also plied up and down the coast. One of them has a distinctive type of sand in it which I am told comes from the Bay of Naples, suggesting that it put in at Naples to take on ballast before chugging on up here."

Some of the boats used oars while others were under sail. A mast has been found in one of them. "These are not just odd remains but whole vessels, with hulls, planks, wooden pins, nails, even baskets and jars."

Professor Bruni said that the excavations were continuing. "The fleet was obviously much bigger than the eight ships found so far," he said. "We knew the site might have artefacts of archaeological value, but nothing like this."

Wood spotted six yards down in the dark grey silt turned out to be the hull of a ship. The archaeologists even found the remains of rope used to tie the boats up in the harbour.





Elena Rossi, a leading archaeologist on the Pisa site, cleaning one of the hulls. Right, Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, director of the British School at Rome

Professor Wallace-Hadrill said the ships were in an exceptional state of preservation because they had been encased in damp mud. To ensure they are not damaged by exposure to the air, specialists have covered the wooden remains in a layer of varnish and protected them with fibre glass. The boats will later be soaked in distilled water.

Professor Bruni said the archaeologists had also found hundreds of amphorae that once contained fruit such as cherries and plums, and chestnuts and walnuts, as well as olives, wine and oil. The jaw bone of a wild boar suggested the boats carried live animals.

"For me this is one of the most important aspects of the discovery," Professor Wallace-Hadrill said. "We have tens of thousand of amphorae from Pompeii and other sites, but know little about what they really contained. This gives you the feel of the range of goods ferried around the Mediterranean." The dates of the amphorae provide clues to the dates of the ships, which will be confirmed by carbon dating of the wood.

The Superintendent of Archaeology at Pisa, Guglielmo Malchiodi, said it appeared that the ships had all fallen victim to a "Pompeii-type catastrophe, perhaps a flash flood, which overwhelmed them". But Elena Rossi, one of the leading archaeologists working on the ships, believes that they had all suffered different fates at different times. "Some may have foundered, others sunk in storms, and others went to the bottom in a flood," she said.

Professor Wallace-Hadrill said Roman ships had been found before around the Mediterranean, "but almost always in ones or twos, such as finds at Fiumicino, during the construction of Rome's airport on the coast, and at Marseilles. This is something quite extraordinary."

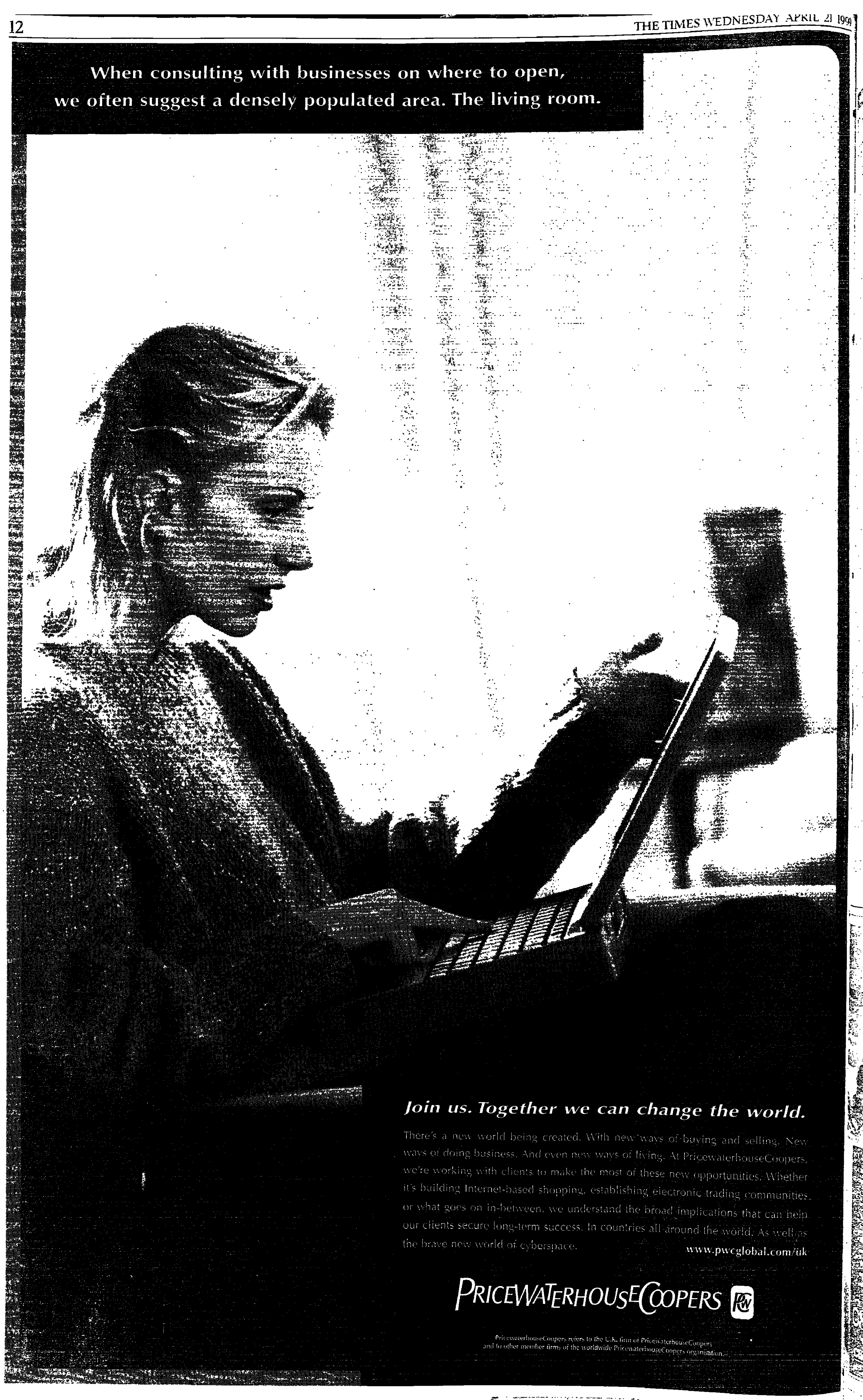
☐ A Roman rubbish dump packed with treasures, including a dinner-set and a leather sandal, has been unearthed in a private garden on the edge of a Falkirk housing estate. The garden adoins Mumrills Farm at Laurieston, the protected site of one of the largest of 17 forts found on the Antonine Wall.

Leading article, page 23



A wild boar's jaw bone with tusks and an amphora were uncovered, providing evidence of the ships' cargoes

[illegible] British School at Rome's fieldwork and archaeological projects.
[illegible] The French Culture Ministry's Mediterranean shipwrecks sites.
[illegible] University of Bangor lecture notes on ancient Roman ships.
[illegible] Lake Nemi Roman ship reconstruction project.
[illegible] The Institute of Nautical Archaeology's virtual museum.
[illegible] Italian archaeology (in Italian)



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Pond gives up sunken treasure

Conservationists clearing a pond pulled out a jewellery box containing 40 pieces valued at £2,500, including a £1,500 diamond and ruby cluster ring. A grappling hook thrown into Coy pond, in Bournemouth, to retrieve a traffic cone snagged on a pillow case with the box inside. The jewellery is thought to been stolen by burglars and to have been in the water for at least ten years. Police are checking their records.

Explosive fuel

Bomb disposal experts were called in to defuse a grenade that workers found in a delivery of coal to a power station on the Isle of Grain in Kent. The consignment had arrived by ship from Holland but had originated in Colombia.

Sex attack hunt

Police are to leaflet 80,000 suburban homes on the edge of East London to help them to track down a sex attacker who has seriously assaulted five children. The attacks, in secluded areas of Woodford, Clayhill and Elm Park, began in 1994.

Head accused

Terrence Vardon, the head of King Henry VIII School, Coventry, was charged with possessing indecent photographs of children. A teacher at the school, John Skermer, has also been accused over child photographs. The cases are not linked.

More depressed

The number of people who went to see their doctor with depression more than doubled from four million to nine million between 1994 and 1998, according to a report by *IMS Health*. Men were more liable to suffer from it than women.

Elvis surprise

A man who played two unlabelled metal records he bought in Memphis in 1968 found they were Elvis Presley's *That's All Right*, his first single, and *Mystery Train*. Graham Knight, of Aberdeen, believes they are master copies worth £20,000.

Seabed odyssey

Brian Lodey decided that a lobster he caught near St Michael's Mount, Cornwall, deserved to live after he found that it had covered more than 300 miles. The lobster was tagged in 1996 off St David's Head, Wales.

Allergy woman killed by chip dipped in curry

By Paul Wilkinson
North East Correspondent

A WOMAN with an allergy to nuts died after taking a bite from a chip that she had dipped into a restaurant curry.

Leann Rickaby, 24, immediately suffered a severe allergic reaction despite rushing to the lavatory to make herself sick. She went into anaphylactic shock and died on the way to hospital.

Yesterday her family called for clearer labelling of food on restaurant menus to show whether dishes contained nuts. Her father, John, said: "We want people to be more aware of these allergies so that this kind of thing never happens again.

"It would give us a bit more peace of mind if someone in the future said, 'If it wasn't for that girl in South Shields my daughter could have died.'"

Miss Rickaby, an accounts manager at Sunderland University, went for a meal with her boyfriend and a friend last Friday to celebrate a promotion and pay rise. She had eaten at the restaurant, the India Brasserie in South Shields, before without experiencing an allergic reaction.

When she noticed the first signs of an attack she called a waiter to her table for help and explained that her life was in danger. As she became more distressed her boyfriend called a taxi, but she insisted that an ambulance be called.

Miss Rickaby was able to walk out of the restaurant but died in the ambulance on the way to hospital.

Her father said: "She knew she had this allergy; she was always very, very careful. She had had reactions in the past and what she normally did was to make herself sick.

"She might not have asked if it had nuts in but it wouldn't have mattered anyway because she always tested her food and that's what she did this time. She dipped the chip in to see if it had any nuts and she just had that little bit."

Miss Rickaby, who lived with her family in South Shields, also suffered from severe asthma. A post-mortem examination concluded that death was a result of natural causes.

A spokesman for the India Brasserie said: "We are deeply upset about what happened and we want to extend our sympathies to the family." He said that the menu did indicate whether each meal contained nuts. "It was very hot and crowded in the restaurant at the time, which may have made the condition worse."

THE SHOCK THAT CAN BE FATAL

Anaphylactic shock is a severe and life-threatening allergic reaction, (Christine Middap writes). It is most commonly caused by insect bites, food and drugs. It affects the whole body, usually within minutes of exposure to an allergen such as nuts or shellfish. Even tiny quantities of the allergen can cause the body's immune system to overreact to the perceived threat to the body and release chemical substances, including histamine. These substances can lower blood pressure, constrict airways and cause asthma, hives, swelling, stomach pain and vomiting. In the most severe cases, the patient can choke, fall into shock and collapse if he or she remains untreated.

LINKS

www.anaphylaxis.org.uk. The Anaphylactic Campaign provides information on potentially fatal food allergies, including guidance for caterers



Leann Rickaby made herself sick, but died before the ambulance reached hospital

Doctor cleared over drug mistake

By Claudia Joseph

A JUNIOR doctor whose mathematical error led to a baby girl being injected with 100 times the intended dose of morphine was cleared of serious professional misconduct yesterday by the General Medical Council of the British Medical Association.

Louise Wood, a one-day-old premature twin, died after the overdose, but the GMC's Professional Conduct Committee ruled that there was insufficient evidence against Hilary Evans, 29, a senior house officer at Rotherham District General Hospital.

Sir Herbert Duthie, the committee chairman, said: "The committee has determined that the facts of the evidence that has been indicated and admitted on balance are insufficient to support the charge of serious professional misconduct."

After the ruling, Brian Purshouse, Louise's father, hugged Dr Evans. He said: "She played her part but we don't blame her. We don't forgive her, but we feel sorry for her. I am just pleased she can get on with her life. She was made the scapegoat."

Her colleagues, Jean Shorland, a consultant paediatrician, and Vivian Michel, a senior registrar, who are accused of covering up the death by omitting any mention of morphine from the death certificate, still face charges of serious professional misconduct.

Navy flier gave parents joyrides

By Simon de Bruxelles, South West Correspondent

A SENIOR Royal Navy aviator took his parents and their lunch guests on a joyride in his helicopter, a court martial was told yesterday.

Lieutenant-Commander James Hawkins was found out after a neighbour who rang her local council to complain about dogs' mess went on to complain about the noise from the helicopter next door.

Mr Hawkins made a 50-mile detour in his Lynx helicopter to visit his parents in Launceston, Cornwall, as he headed from his base at Portland to a ball at the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, Devon.

After having lunch with them he took his parents and their seven guests on a series of joyrides in the £7 million aircraft.

Mr Hawkins had been celebrating his last day as observer and flight commander of the helicopter based on the destroyer *HMS Gloucester* when he made the flights at Easter last year.

He admitted causing unnecessary annoyance by flying over private residences and breaking Queen's Regulations by carrying civilian passengers without permission. He was fined £1,500 and will be assigned to another job within the Navy.

Captain Ian Tibbitt, the president of the court martial, told him: "You deliberately flouted regulations for the operation of Naval aircraft and betrayed the trust and confidence of those who looked to you to uphold the professional standards of your specialisation."

Lieutenant-Commander Hugh Anderson, for the defence, said: "These matters are out of character. He is desperately embarrassed to be here today to account for what he knows full well was a deliberate flouting of regulations."

Dialogue of deaf ends in stabbings

By Russell Jenkins

A DEAF woman, caught by her boyfriend trying to seduce her former lover, lashed out with a kitchen knife after a furious row in sign language, a court was told yesterday.

Lynda Wright, 31, was entertaining the men — both profoundly deaf — at her flat in *Stockport on Christmas Day*, 1997.

Minshull Street Crown Court in Manchester was told that she lost her temper when her former boyfriend, Peter Drinnan, 40, spurned her attempts to give him a love bite. She grabbed a 7in knife from the kitchen and stabbed him in the stomach.

She then left the room and returned with a pair of scissors, attempting to stab herself. She then allegedly stabbed her boyfriend, Alex Wilson, 41, in the shoulder.

Police forced entry into the flat when Ms Wright locked herself inside, armed with the knife. Mr Drinnan needed nine stitches, while Mr Wilson needed three stitches.

Stephen Rothwell, for the prosecution, told the court that the dispute began after the trio had been drinking. Ms Wright became affectionate with her ex-lover, who pushed her away. It was then that Wright attacked the two men, he said.

Ms Wright denies two charges of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Four interpreters for the deaf are being used in the trial, which continues.


هكذا من الأصل

Welcome to the collapse of the Conservative Party



The Tories are not only politically irrelevant but are also in danger of appearing ridiculous. After attempting to remake the party's image and William Hague's style in the manner of a failing middle-market paper, the leadership is now in a muddle over policy. The confusion cannot just be dismissed as a linguistic and "spinning" fuss. It reflects distinct and inherently contradictory strategies.

On the one hand, William Hague has said the Tories would "re-establish the economic and moral case for low taxation" and praised an "excellent" Centre for Policy Studies pamphlet by Maurice Saatchi and Peter Warburton calling for an overhaul of the tax and benefit system to slash the tax burden. On the other hand, Peter Lilley has highlighted the limits to the role of the free market and defended taxpayer funding of public services.

Mr Lilley sought to answer criticisms that the Tories do not care about welfare services and are interested only in privatisation. The public overwhelmingly supports universal health, education and welfare provision funded by the taxpayer. There are limits to the application of insurance either in health or social security since those most in need would not be covered or only at very high premiums, as in the United States. That does not, however, exclude public-private partnerships.

However, accepting that such services will remain "predominantly taxpayer-financed" limits Tory ambitions to cut taxes. Repeated squeezes on government running costs and cutbacks at the margin helped to reduce the relative size of the public sector from a peak of 47 per cent to 41 per cent by the time the Tories lost power in 1997. But that was only achieved through the exercise of strong political will by the Treasury and it will be hard to cut the share much lower. There is no way that the tax burden could be reduced from its current level of more than 37 per cent of national income to the immediate Saatchi/Warburton objective of 33 per cent, let alone to their ultimate goal of 30 per cent, as in the 1950s, without violating Mr Lilley's pledge.

If Mr Lilley's lecture was full of subtle realism, the Saatchi/Warburton plan is full of grand simplicities. The authors dress up their ideas in the trite populism of "Independence Day", a national holiday when people stop working for the Government and start working for themselves. But the plan has the appealing theme of ending the overlap between taxes and benefits and exchanging tax allowances, reliefs and exemptions for lower tax rates. There is a lot to be said for tax neutrality and simplicity. But there would be a large number of losers, who would see their benefits and special tax reliefs eliminated.

The Saatchi/Warburton pamphlet has the virtue of making firm proposals. Without specific plans about how the public sector can be reined back, proclamations about the virtues of low taxes by Mr Hague and Francis Maude lack credibility. Mr Lilley has annoyed many of his colleagues by appearing to rule out radical free-market solutions.

However, if the Tories want substantially to cut taxes, that inevitably means a smaller welfare state. If they accept Mr Lilley's analysis, how would the Tories differ from new Labour? The key to Labour's success in 1997 was having a clear-cut and credible strategy. The fabled media operation backed that up, but was secondary. The Tories need to sort out where they stand.

Hague stands by his man as Tory revolt erupts

Lilley's rejection of Thatcherite ideals sparks Shadow Cabinet anger, writes Philip Webster

WILLIAM HAGUE tried to face down a Shadow Cabinet revolt last night by staking his authority on the abandonment of Thatcherite ideals of reforming the health, education and welfare systems.

With Baroness Thatcher looking on at an event to mark the twentieth anniversary of her election as Prime Minister, Mr Hague threw his backing behind a move by his deputy Peter Lilley to shift the Tories away from the quest for free-market solutions to the problems of health, education and benefits.

He did so after at least three members of the Shadow Cabinet protested over what they saw as Mr Lilley's attempt to ram through radical change without discussion. They complained that his move had cut short their options in the party's policy review.

Because of the internal dissension caused by advance billing of Mr Lilley's remarks — from which he did not retreat when he delivered them to the Carlton Club last night — Mr Hague devoted a portion of his speech celebrating Lady Thatcher's anniversary to supporting his deputy.

The Hague-Lilley plan is the biggest rhetorical break with the Thatcher years since Mr Hague became leader. It has been prompted by "focus group" findings that much of the Conservatives' unpopularity derives from the public belief that they would privatise health, education and social security.

A source close to Mr Hague compared the move with Tony Blair's crusade to scrap Clause Four. "Blair slayed the paper dragon of Clause Four because of the perception that it meant Labour would nationalise everything even though we all knew that they would not. Now we have to slay the paper dragon of the perception that we will privatise health and education, even though of course we would never have done that."

In his speech Mr Lilley said the Conservative "Achilles heel" was the party's supposedly hostile attitude to the welfare state, particularly health and education. He repeated that the Tories could only renew public confidence in their commitment to welfare if they "emphatically accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare".

In a remark that astonished some Thatcherite MPs, he added: "Unless and until we are prepared to accept that there is more to life and more to Conservatism than defending and extending the free market we will always be on the intellectual back-foot where the public services are concerned."

Mr Lilley's words had alarmed frontbench colleagues. Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, demanded and got a meeting with him on Monday but he refused to budge. There were also strong complaints from Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Environment Secretary, that the move had not been cleared with the Shadow Cabinet, and from Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, whose main policy proposals since her appointment last summer have included ideas for large injections of private money into the health service.

At a private seminar yesterday Michael Portillo also underlined his attachment to private-sector solutions although he made plain that he was not commenting on Mr Lilley's move.

Mr Hague told the Shadow Cabinet that he would be backing Mr Lilley, and sources close to them said there would be no public expressions of discontent. "They are unhappy but he is the leader and they must accept it," one said.

Leading article, page 23

MIKE WILKINSON



The Scottish Green Party put four faceless models on the streets of Edinburgh yesterday to support their claim that the environmental policies of other parties in the elections to the Scottish parliament are uniformly grey

Three steps to their tax heaven

Tim Hames on how administrative savings could pay healthy dividends

THE programme outlined by Maurice Saatchi and Peter Warburton is aimed at eliminating the complexity that has entered the tax and benefit system over the last 40 years. Income tax "celebrates" its bicentenary this year. It will shortly reach some 39 per cent of national income — the highest peacetime level. Despite this steadily increasing burden, public demand for higher spending on health and education continues to outpace the ability of elected politicians to deliver. Saatchi and Warburton aim to reverse this ratchet through three initiatives.

■ The progressive elimination of present arrangements which involve comparatively small amounts of taxation being extracted from relatively poor people who then have the same money returned in the form of benefits. The Government now extracts Income Tax and National Insurance contributions from 17 million households with incomes below £20,000 a year, seven million of which earn less than half that sum. Almost all of these people then receive benefits in order to "top up" incomes that have been in part drained by tax contributions. Saatchi and Warburton seek a single cut-off point above which people would be taxpayers and below which they would receive benefits.

■ An assault on the 250 tax allowances, credits, exemptions and reliefs that clutter the tax system. These would be abolished to make way for one single large personal allowance and permit a further lowering of tax rates. The same broad principle was followed in the United States during the 1980s although it has since been undermined by President Clinton's enthusiasm for tax breaks targeted at electorally sensitive voters. Critics of Gordon Brown argue that he has now chosen to follow a very similar path.

■ These policies would allow government agencies dealing with the spider's web of taxes and benefits — the Inland Revenue, the Department of Social Security, the Benefits Agency, and the Contributions Agency — to be merged. This would allow for large administrative savings — initially estimated at £5 billion — that could be redirected towards health and education.



Scots 'have lost their enterprise'

The nation which produced Adam Smith has been accused of losing its entrepreneurial spirit. In a lecture tonight, David Bell, Professor of Economics at Stirling University, will claim that lack of motivation will hinder economic growth. He will also reject SNP claims that an independent Scotland could, like Ireland, become a "Celtic tiger" economy, and tell young Scots to look abroad and learn lessons from the Far East.

QUOTE of the day

Jim Wallace, Scottish Lib Dem leader, on anti-drugs policy:

"Banging a drug offender up in prison is like locking an alcoholic up in a brewery"

today's AGENDA

Donald Dewar will play bingo in Maryhill while Labour's press conference will focus on science and technology. Jim Wallace, Scottish Lib Dem leader, launches a "Better Business Charter". The Tories talk about drugs.

Bones put man in bed with Neanderthals


NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Neanderthals shared space and time with modern man, but DNA tests indicate that the two never interbred

THEM AND US

Neanderthal man

☐ Large head with projecting nose, large teeth and a prominent brow ridge
☐ Not tall but stocky and muscular; taller men were about 5ft 7ins
☐ Bones of upper arm much bigger and stronger. Hips suggest that Neanderthals were very active as children, probably following the adults as they hunted and foraged
☐ Brain large but lying behind the face, not on top of it. The back of the skull was balloon-shaped, with a series of bony crests just behind the ears
☐ Died out about 30,000 years ago, but may have survived longer in areas such as Spain and Portugal, out of the way of modern human beings
☐ No language, art or culture

Homo sapiens

☐ Flatter face, higher forehead and smaller nose than Neanderthal man but larger chin, smaller teeth
☐ Taller and more lightly built; men four to six inches taller than Neanderthals
☐ Brain almost identical in size to Neanderthals (1,200-1,700cc) but located higher above the face
☐ More sophisticated use of tools, reflected in less strongly developed bones and muscle in upper arm
☐ Possessed language, developed art and practised ritual, as in the burial of the dead

Nigel Hawkes reports on a scientific discovery that throws new light on the origin of Homo sapiens

THE skeleton of a four-year-old child who died 24,500 years ago reveals that Neanderthals and modern man interbred, an American palaeontologist has claimed.

The skeleton, found in the Lapedo Valley north of Lisbon, has the sturdy limbs of a Neanderthal but the pronounced teeth and chin of Homo sapiens, says Erik Trinkaus of Washington University in St Louis.

The suggestion conflicts with genetic evidence extracted from Neanderthal bones, and published two years ago, which indicated that there had been no interbreeding.

The opportunity was certainly there. Anthropologists believe that the two populations did overlap, both in space and time.

Neanderthal man emerged about 300,000 years ago and did not die out until well after the appearance of early *Homo sapiens* about 100,000 years ago. In southern France and the Iberian Peninsula traces of both species, dating to about 30,000 years ago, have been found in the same places. But most experts have dismissed the idea that they might have interbred.

Professor Trinkaus says the Portuguese skeleton provides the proof. "This skeleton, which has some characteristics of Neanderthals and others of early modern humans, demonstrates that early modern humans and Neanderthals are not all that different. They intermixed, interbred and produced offspring," he said. The skeleton was found


Palaeontologists unearthing the child's skeleton

buried on a hillside near Leiria, 80 miles north of Lisbon and 19 miles from the Atlantic coast.

The skull had been crushed by a bulldozer but Joao Zilhao of the Portuguese Archaeological Institute led excavations which found a well-preserved lower jaw and skeleton.

The find was made last December when an archaeologist stuck his hand down a rabbit hole and pulled out the left forearm.

Radiocarbon dating revealed that the child lived about 24,500 years ago, or 4,000 years after early modern man migrated into the Iberian Peninsula where Neanderthals were already living, Professor Trinkaus said.

He said the skeleton could not be dismissed as a product of a rare affair between the two groups. "This is not a love child," he said. "The results of admixture were there in the population 4,000 years after Neanderthals and early modern humans first met on the Iberian Peninsula."

The prominent chin was characteristic of early *Homo sapiens* while the stocky trunk and short limbs reflected Neanderthals, he said. Arm bones pointed to early modern human parentage. The discovery, which is yet to be published, could prove controversial because it questions the Out of Africa theory of the origin of modern man, which holds that he evolved in Africa and spread around the world, displacing the Neanderthals without interbreeding.

"This find refutes strict replacement models of modern human origins — that early modern human beings all emerged from Africa and wiped out the Neanderthal population," Professor Trinkaus said.

A leading exponent of the Out of Africa theory, Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum yesterday told BBC Online that he expected the find to make a "major contribution" to debate on how Neanderthals died out.

If interbreeding did occur, modern man will carry genes inherited from Neanderthal ancestors. But this conflicts with the DNA evidence, published by a team led by Svante Paabo of the University of Munich, which showed that Neanderthal DNA differed equally from the DNA of modern man on all five continents.

Had there been interbreeding, the Neanderthal DNA would have been closer to that of modern Europeans because that is where the two populations mixed.

LINKS

http://www.campus.bt.com/public/ScienceNet/publications/neanderthal.html General introduction from Liverpool University
http://thunder.indstate.edu/~ramanank A cyber perspective
http://www.neanderthal.de/e_thal/fs_1.htm Neanderthal Museum Foundation in Germany

Times in tribute to human rights lawyers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

TWO human rights lawyers whose premature deaths last month were widely lamented by the legal profession were honoured at *The Times*/Justice Legal Awards last night.

Peter Duffy, QC, who acted for Amnesty International during the House of Lords hearing on General Pinochet, was named Lawyer of the Year. A special award was made to Rosemary Nelson, who was murdered in Northern Ireland, in recognition of her courage in defending her clients "fearlessly in the face of great personal risk."

The awards were presented to the winners' relatives by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. "All the winners have shown themselves to be outstanding in their efforts to make human rights real and accessible to ordinary people," he said.

Anne Owers, director of the human rights group Justice, paid tribute to the work of Mr Duffy, who died of cancer last month, aged 44. Despite his illness, she said, he had appeared in several landmark cases over the past year, including the one on women as refugees, and had helped to prepare lawyers for the implementation of the Human Rights Act.

The judges, who included Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways and Chris Mullin, MP, named Saul Lehrfreund and Parvais Jabbar as joint winners of the Young Lawyer of the Year award for their work helping prisoners on death row in the Caribbean.

The Access to Justice Award was given to the Environmental Law Foundation, which through a network of lawyers mostly acting without charge has helped many local groups to pursue their environmental rights.

A full report on the awards will appear in *The Times* law pages next Tuesday.

Radical college sets up chair of aliens

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

IF ANYBODY'S out there, Berkeley would like to know: the university that invented gender studies in the 1960s has appointed the first Professor of Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Dr William Welch will supervise the building of a three-acre field of telescopes in Northern California in a renewed attempt to answer what most scientists consider the Big One: are we alone in the universe? He does not expect a quick answer.

Using giant dishes pointed at deep space from New Mexico and Puerto Rico, the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (Seti) has been seeking signals from alien life for decades, without success.

"Will we find intelligent life in space in my lifetime?" Dr Welch mused in an interview with *The New York Times* at Berkeley's Hat Creek Observatory. "It's a very remote possibility."

Seti researchers concentrate on a band of microwave radiation considered the best hunting ground. Such signals could take aeons to get here, though. In 1974 a message about our solar system was beamed from Puerto Rico to a star cluster 25,000 light years away. A prompt reply would not be back for 50,000 years.

Dr Welch's job is at least a sign that Seti is about science, not little green men. Endowed to the tune of $500,000 (£311,000) by two Seti volunteers, the professorship is a much-needed injection of money for a search stripped of most of its Nasa funding in 1993, as depicted in *Contact*, the film starring Jodi Foster.

Jill Tarter, on whom Foster's character was based, then sought private backing. She happens to be Dr Welch's wife.



PLINIO LEPRI / AP

Sophia Loren proves she is still the centre of attention after a presentation by Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, in Rome yesterday. The 64-year-old actress, who starts filming in her native Naples in June, won the entertainment category of a government cultural award

South Africans praise violent police tactics

Rampant violent crime has fostered a siege mentality among citizens, writes **Ray Kennedy** in Johannesburg

THE extent to which society in South Africa has become brutalised by its enormous crime wave became clear yesterday after the screening by BBC Television of a documentary showing police in Johannesburg assaulting car-hijacking suspects.

Although senior officers expressed shock, most callers to radio phone-ins said: "Good for them."

Reports about the documentary, shown on *Newsnight* on Monday and re-screened last night on South African television, were the lead stories in newspapers and radio bulletins. The South African Broadcasting Corporation reported that the police unit involved, the Brixton Highway Patrol in Johannesburg, is to be disbanded.

Typical of the callers was a white woman, identified as Sue, who lives near Johannesburg, on Radio 702. She said: "As an ordinary citizen, I'm delighted that these criminals are getting what they deserve. We are living in a state of siege behind electric fences. They are raping our children and we drive around with our cars locked and walk with our keys in our hands."

Neville Melville, of the Independent Complaints' Directorate, a body monitoring police, said the public was "baying for blood" as suspects escape arrest or are freed on bail.

Six white policemen filmed by the BBC have been suspended. The documentary, which was planned originally to focus on the stress under which they work, shows the highway patrol kicking and punching suspects and setting a dog on them as they lie face down and handcuffed.

In another incident, a suspect injured after a hijacked car crashed is filmed being hit in the stomach and about the head with a rifle butt.

The Independent Complaints' Directorate said yesterday: "No less than 15 people a month die in custody or as a result of police actions." More than 1,000 police officers have been murdered since 1994.

George Fivaz, the police commissioner, has warned criminals in a country awash with guns that the police will "fight fire with fire". But Mohamed Hussein, of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, said police needed educating that they were living in a constitutional democracy.

It was emphasised in many quarters yesterday that most South African policemen and women are hard working and honest. Judith Robb, a human rights lawyer, said it was essential that those within it who resorted to violence and behaved as though nothing had changed since its role was basically to enforce apartheid should be rooted out.

Mr Fivaz said he would order police management to investigate setting up a programme to treat officers who were suspected of having become brutalised by the daily stresses of their jobs.

In the BBC documentary it was reported that a senior policeman invited to South Africa from Denver, Colorado, to advise on how to deal with violent crime had been faced with two shooting incidents in a 25-year career. In South Africa one of the first policemen he met was a 26-year-old who had been involved in 17. After the African National Congress came to power in 1994 it dismissed concerns about rising crime as a bitter white reaction to black majority rule. The fact that crime now affects far more blacks than whites simply because of demographics has compelled the ANC to address it as a major issue in its campaign for the general election on June 2.

President Mandela, opening yet another crime prevention campaign on Monday, admitted that it would take several years to solve the problem.

Statistics show that 52 people out of every 100,000 were murdered last year which was a slight improvement on the previous year when the figure was 62. On average there is one rape every two minutes.

More than 2,000 cars and vehicles were seized from their owners in the Johannesburg area alone, mostly at gunpoint, last year.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Dogs slaughtered to halt brain virus

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia has begun killing dogs and plans to test "every species imaginable" to curb a rare brain disease that has claimed about 100 lives. At first, pigs were believed to be the only carriers of two strains of viral encephalitis that broke out in October. A dozen people have died of Japanese encephalitis and recently more than 90 from a new strain named Nipah after the village where its first victim died. Despite claims that the outbreak seemed to be over, officials admitted yesterday that stray dogs had contracted the Nipah virus in the worst-hit area 60 miles southeast of the capital. *(AP)*

Move to oust Bhutto

Karachi: Pakistan's Parliament moved to annul the membership of Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, and Asif Ali Zardari, her imprisoned husband, following their conviction for corruption (Zahid Hussain writes). All the couple's assets can be confiscated because of their conviction, Khalid Anwar, the Law Minister, said.

Chinese 'torture'

Arbitrary and summary executions, detention, unfair political trials and tortures that include the insertion of horse hair into the penis are part of a pattern of gross and systematic abuse of human rights in the Uighur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang in western China, according to a report issued by Amnesty International (Michael Binyon writes).

Rape law toughened

Cairo: The Egyptian parliament has scrapped a century-old law exempting a rapist from punishment if he marries his victim. Parliament adopted the change after women's groups expressed outrage over the freeing of three rape suspects when one of them married the victim. Human rights activists praised the decision. *(AFP)*

Fatally bad hair day

Beijing: A Chinese woman died of shock when she clapped eyes on her granddaughter with dyed red hair, the *Lanzhou Morning Post* reported. The young woman went to visit her grandmother in the mountainous northern town of Meixian after working for several months as a hairdresser in the southern economic boom town of Shenzhen. *(AFP)*

Everglades in flames



Miami: Smoke turns day into night as Broward County firefighters watch a 130,000-acre blaze that has swept through the Everglades in three days — closing about 60 miles of Interstate 75, known as Alligator Alley, and threatening an Indian reservation. The largest of at least 2,515 fires in Florida this year, it may devour another 40,000 acres. *(AP)*

Apple bites back at 'carpet-bagger' Hillary

FROM IAN BRODIE IN NEW YORK

HILLARY Clinton loves New York, but New Yorkers are loving her less.

A campaign-style swing by the First Lady through the Big Apple, where she is eyeing a Democratic run for the Senate, was marred by a new poll showing she has lost the ten-point lead she held in January over her putative opponent, Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Republican Mayor.

They are now in a statistical dead heat, 43.5 per cent for her, 42.8 per cent for him, according to a new poll by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion.

Even worse for Mrs Clinton, a majority of New York voters, 52 per cent, now think she should not run for the Senate, up from 37 per cent in February, according to the poll. It appears that Mr Giuliani is making inroads with his denunciation of Mrs Clinton as a carpet-bagger — a politician seeking office in a state where she has no real connection.

Asked if she will run, Mrs Clinton said she was still considering the idea but was very interested. Asked why, she said: "I love New York to start with, I always have." It was "a microcosm of America".

To have or have not

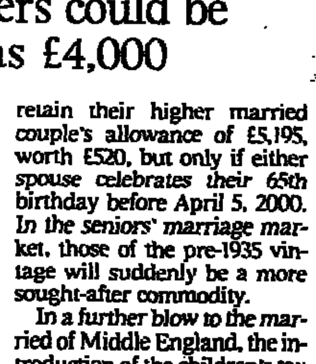


Personal Finance Editor **Anne Ashworth** on the financial implications of marriage; how to make savings in the garden; and why personal pension customers could be owed as much as £4,000

Successive surveys predict the demise of matrimony, yet the institution persists. This summer a gaggle of glitterati will tie the knot, presumably in the belief that if cohabitation will soon become the norm, then marriage is chic.

The Spice Girl Victoria Adams and footballer David Beckham will unite their fortunes in June to create a £20 million partnership. Next in line are Sophie Rhys-Jones, a partner in a PR firm, who earns about £80,000, and Edward Windsor, a television producer whose income this year should be £416,000. Close behind in the celebs' altar line stand Zoë Ball, the radio and TV presenter, on a salary of £1.5 million, and Fat Boy Slim, her fiancé, whose dance-music hits should make him at least as wealthy as his wife-to-be.

Like other brides and bridegrooms of the season, these prosperous pairs will now be concentrating on the champagne for the reception and the musculature of the hen-night entertainment. The Government, however, would like couples who are in less easy circumstances to be planning the smooth operation of a joint account as well as the itinerary for the stag night. We should be considering not only the cost of the wedding but all the financial implications of matrimony, too.



The Home Office has recommended that the betrothed should be supplied with a "marriage preparation pack", with details of tax, state benefits and property rights. It also proposes that all couples should draw up prenuptial agreements in recognition of the one in three chance that their relationship will end in divorce. Usually the preserve of Old Money or of New World wealth, these documents set out the division of the marital assets in the event of a split.

However, like other government notions designed to make us more financially prudent, these plans are yet to be finalised. This will come as a relief to those who would prefer a pacier honeymoon read than benefit entitlement terms and conditions.

The contents of the pack may also be causing some embarrassment in Whitehall because they would reveal that the tax benefits of marriage are negligible to many couples, and soon to be nil. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, husband and father, is apparently concerned to support marriage. But Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and bachelor, will next year be abolishing the married couple's tax allowance.

The £1,970 allowance, worth £197 a year, will be abolished in April 2000. A year later it will be replaced by a concession given to families with children whether the parents are married or not. The children's tax credit will be worth, at most, £416 a year. The higher your salary, the less tax credit you receive, so that a household where one partner has an income of £38,500 or more gets nothing. However, if both mother and father earn £30,000 each, they will receive a percentage of the credit.

Pensioners will be entitled to retain their higher married couple's allowance of £5,195, worth £520, but only if either spouse celebrates their 65th birthday before April 5, 2000. In the seniors' marriage market, those of the pre-1935 vintage will suddenly be a more sought-after commodity.

In a further blow to the married of Middle England, the introduction of the children's tax credit in 2001 may be accompanied by the imposition of higher-rate tax on child benefit. But Mr Brown must first discover a way to circumvent independent taxation, under which husbands and wives are taxed separately. Child benefit is paid to mothers. But too few are higher-rate taxpayers to raise sufficient revenue. So Mr Brown must find a way to tax a wife's money as her husband's income if he is a higher-rate taxpayer. The Chancellor is aware that such a measure would leave him open to charges of fiscal sexism. While the Home Office strives to compile its pre-marriage pack without acknowledging that the tax system is growing less favourable to husbands and wives, *Easy Money* can provide some hints to marital financial harmony:

■ Some of the best guidance comes from divorce lawyers whose services you are less likely to need if you remain financially compatible.

Frances Hughes, the head of the matrimonial department at Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, the solicitors, says: "A lack of openness in money matters leads to problems, as does unnecessary financial dependence. Wherever possible each spouse should have their own bank account and do their own budgeting. A feeling of being powerless in the relationship, of having to ask for money, causes disagreements."

The contemporary money management model is based on three accounts — his, hers and theirs. The joint account is used to pay the mortgage and other household expenses. If one partner does not use the personal tax allowance of £4,335, a meeting should be held to discuss putting some of the joint savings into his or her name only. This will allow him or her to receive tax-free interest up to the level of the allowance.

■ For the wealthy, marriage still holds significant tax benefits, as John Battersby, a tax partner at the accountants KPMG, points out. There is, for example, the opportunity to cut a bill for capital gains tax. If your spouse cannot use his or her tax-free allowance of £7,100 and you would face a large bill from the sale of some asset, say shares, then transfer them tax-free to your spouse. He or she then sells the shares, sets the gain against his or her allowance and limits the household's tax liability.

■ You can bequeath your whole estate tax-free to your spouse. Leave it to anyone else and inheritance tax at the rate of 40 per cent is payable on the portion above £231,000. Couples should draw up wills to take advantage of the spousal concession and the tax-free portion. Whatever the size of your joint bank balance, if your spouse dies intestate, you automatically inherit a portion of the estate; cohabitees do not enjoy such rights.

■ Prenuptial agreements are not yet legally binding in Britain, but their popularity is rising, not only among those who wish to protect City bonuses from estranged spouses.

Expect soon to see the prenup on the pre-wedding *aide-mémoire* in *Brides*. Professional couples often believe that the ability to discuss how houses and savings will be managed throughout the marriage — not only at its ending — is a sign of emotional maturity in a prospective partner. Sarah Anticoni, of Campbell Hooper, the solicitors, says: "A prenup is part of sensible financial planning."

These same serious-minded young people also insure their weddings with Cornhill or Ecclesiastical against such calamities as the destruction of the dress or the bankruptcy of the catering company. Policies cost from £45. But latterday Miss Havishams should be aware that they will not be covered for cancellation of the event if the other party has a sudden change of heart.

● *Contacts: Cornhill: 0171-626 5410; Ecclesiastical: 0800 336622.*

PA



NATIONAL



Rolling down the aisle: David Beckham and Victoria Adams. Fat Boy Slim and Zoë Ball

PA

Royal match: Sophie Rhys-Jones and Edward Windsor

NASTY HABITS

One in four women prefers it to sex. No, it's not shopping, it's gardening. It may not be the new rock'n'roll but there is no denying that gardening is hip. The garden centre is fast replacing the pub as the ideal place for thirtysomethings to spend their spring bank holidays. The launch of *New Eden*, a glossy magazine that seeks to do for gardening what *Wallpaper** did for interior decorating, and exclusive shops such as The Plant Room, a North London specialist that has its catalogue on CD-Rom, reinforce the claims that gardening is terribly trendy.

The problem with gardening — as with all things both modern and cool — is the expense. Prices paid by gardeners for the same goods probably vary more than in any other area of consumer spending. Small, specialist garden centres and shops are much more expensive than the big chains such as Homebase or B&Q.

At the Chelsea Gardener, a 4ft-tall Tuscan Waterlady complete with silicone implants and dispirited expression will set you back £495. Or you could purchase a decorative conservatory pineapple for £295, though why you would want to put a slightly rusty metal globe crowned with a pineapple in your conservatory is anyone's guess.

On the more tasteful side, you could splash out on an eight-seater metal and fake marble table, perfect for summer dinner parties, for £1,635. The drawback is that you also have to buy the eight chairs at £399 each, setting you back £4,827 for the whole caboodle.

If you do decide to buy outrageously priced sculptures or garden furniture, it is a good idea to insure them. Otherwise you could find yourself in the situation that Brian Sewell, the art critic, found himself in last week when thieves made off with life-size marble busts of John Locke and Emperor Augustus and a bronze bust of an obscure Italian politician from Mr Sewell's garden.

You can make huge savings by avoiding the trendiest garden centres and posh Islington boutiques. Frequenting the major chain stores or supermarkets can save you a packet. The price war between the big DIY chains is cut-throat. This has led to brutal cost-cutting and, especially at this time of year when stores are trying to attract customers,. obvious loss-leaders. Growbags, for example, can cost just just 99p.

Even for basic implements, the differences in price are staggering. A 30-metre hose from Chelsea Gardener costs five times as much as it would from Homebase. A spade costs almost four times as much: £46.95 against £11.99. A gardening fork is nearly double the price: £29.95 against £14.99 at Homebase. Compost can cost as little as £3.99 for 80 litres (that's about the maximum most people could lift into the back of a car without help). Chelsea Gardener sells 75 litres for £5.99.

Accessories are also much cheaper at the major DIY stores. A bird table costs £41.95 at Chelsea Gardener, £22.99 at Homebase. A glazed blue pot costs £120 in Chelsea, £49.99 from Homebase, while a terracotta pot costs £300 from the Chelsea Gardener, £24.99 from Homebase.

This means that before you have even got to the plants, you could save £438.32 by stocking up at Homebase rather than in Chelsea. Once you do get to the plants, the price differentials are massive depending on whether you grow the plant from seed or buy a more mature plant.

For example, a small *Vibernum Tinus* costs £2.99 from Homebase, or £90 for a fully grown plant from Chelsea Gardener. You can buy a rhododendron seedling for just £3.99 from Homebase, or the same, mature plant for £120 from Chelsea Gardener, or £3.99 for a younger plant from Homebase. A 6in-high Japanese maple from Homebase costs £6.99, while the fully grown version will set you back a hefty £600 at Chelsea Gardener.

The disadvantage of growing plants from seed is that you need lots of space, ideally a greenhouse and plenty of time and dedication for all the pricking out, potting on and watering. However, this is offset by the feelings of pride and satisfaction that you will get from the knowledge that you have nurtured the plant to maturity — not to mention the additional saving of £810, based on the prices of the three plants mentioned here.

Added to your savings on the basics, your cost-cutting has saved a total of £1,248 — enough to pay off half the interest payments on a £50,000 mortgage for the year. Invested as a lump sum in the Barclays FTSE-100 index tracker for five years, you could save £2,500, based on past performance.

Be warned, however, that your garden may suffer as a result of all this cost-cutting. Expensive garden centres are expensive for a reason. They tend to be staffed by real enthusiasts who know the plants they are selling and the conditions in which they will flourish, so you are less likely to end up with plants unsuited to your garden or roof terrace that wither within weeks of purchase.

PAULA HAWKINS

No claim, no gain in pensions row

NO ONE likes being shortchanged or being served poor-quality goods, which is probably why most of us would kick up a fuss if we were served a hotdog without enough mustard.



However, if you are one of the millions who has recently received a letter marked "R.U. Owed?", you have the chance to rectify a far greater financial wrong than simply getting an undergarnished sausage in a roll. Filling in the forms attached to the letter could be worth thousands of pounds if you were one of the millions who were wrongly advised to leave or never join a company pension scheme but instead were sold a personal pension. Over the past four months more than three million people have been contacted by their pensions company or financial adviser as part of the personal pensions mis-selling review. But many potential victims have yet to respond, despite an advertising campaign launched by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the City watchdog. The latest ad features a chap who feels that his hotdog does not have enough mustard.

If you were sold a personal pension between April 1988 and June 1994 even though you were entitled to join your company's scheme, with its superior benefits, you could be owed as much as £4,000.

So get out the envelope and take a trip down memory lane to that ill-fated meeting when a life insurance salesman persuaded you that a personal pension was the only option for you.

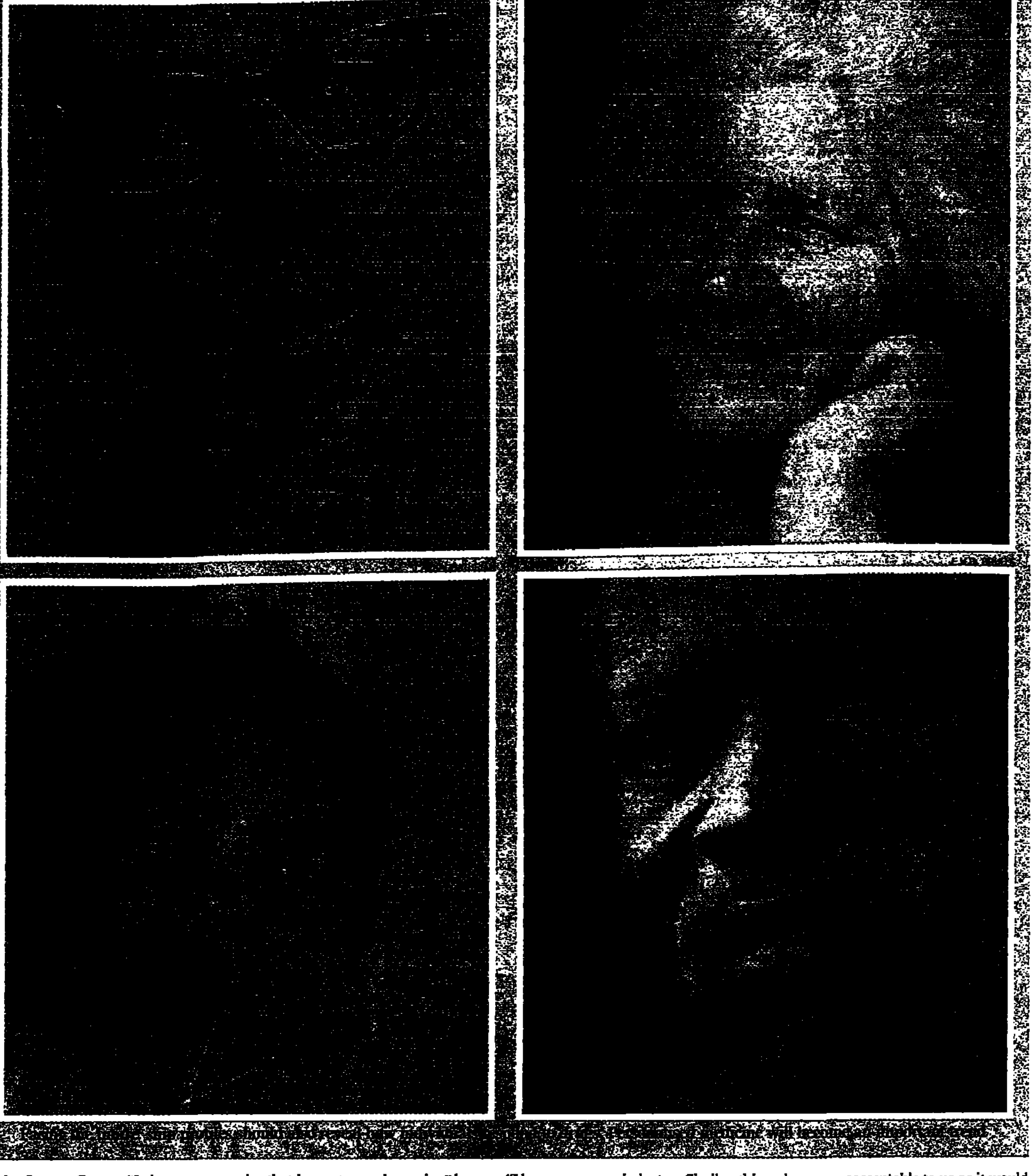
You will be offered compensation if you can prove that you suffered a loss by failing to join your company scheme at the time. But, whatever your situation, you will get nothing if you do not return the form.

SUSAN EMMETT

● *Contacts: FSA helpline: 0800 003 007*

The race to draw a map of humanity

Medicine tailored to the needs of the individual could be possible if an altruistic, $45 million project is successful. However, one scientist wants to make money. Anjana Ahuja reports



There is precious little to distinguish you, biologically speaking, from anyone else on the planet. We are each made from three billion pairs of DNA building blocks, and a variation occurs every 1,000 building blocks. This means that we share about 99.9 per cent of our genetic make-up with each other.

These minute and sparse variations are the subject of an extraordinary research project announced last week. The SNP Consortium — comprising the Wellcome Trust, ten pharmaceutical companies and five of the world's leading medical research institutes — will spend $45 million over the next two years to identify one-tenth, or 300,000, of those variations, more properly called single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs, or snips).

The fact that rivals such as Glaxo Wellcome, AstraZeneca, Smithkline Beecham, Pfizer and Hoffmann-La Roche are joining forces is striking, since nobody will profit.

The consortium is sending out a strong message that the rapid advances being made in genetics should be shared freely for the public good, rather than being patented and sold on for vast sums.

However, according to the Wellcome Trust, Dr Craig Venter, the maverick American scientist who has broken away from the International Human Genome Project (IHGP) to set up his own commercial effort, has announced that he will compete to create a snips database.

Snips are the smallest possible change in genetic material, and occur in a single building block of DNA. They are one class of genetic mutation. Some snips are harmless; others, either singly but more often in combination, render people more susceptible to diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. Scientists in the consortium aim to draw one of the most important maps in scientific history — a chart of the exact locations of 150,000 snips.

By comparing the genetic maps of sufferers with the maps of healthy individuals, doctors should be able to infer which snips are associated with specific conditions. The result will be a kind of master atlas for medical science — by examining our own sequence of snips and comparing them to this mammoth map, we could discover which diseases we might fall victim to and take preventive action.

"Each disease will be associated with a handful of snips, which are one type of genetic marker," says Dr David Bentley, head of human genetics at the Sanger Centre in Cambridge, one of the participants. "Since we are looking at 300,000 snips, this project will give us an awful lot of reference points. The current set of genetic markers, called microsatellites, number 300, so this universal map of snips will give us much more detail."

This project, Dr Bentley says, is part of the genome project. However, the map being drawn in the IHGP is too low in resolution to provide the detail required to hunt for the genetic clues to disease. It would be like trying to use a world atlas to navigate a journey from Liverpool to Manchester. The snips should also reveal how individuals might respond to different drugs. It should identify, for example, which sufferers of depression might benefit from Prozac. This means that patients can be offered a treatment tailored to their needs, rather than a blanket therapy with possible side-effects.

The project will have other spin-offs, too — while everyone should have a healthy diet, it is well-known that switching from chocolates and crisps to fruit and vegetables will help some more than others. In the future, nutritional advice could be offered on the basis of a snip profile. This may seem spooky but "personalised medicine" will be an important trend over the coming century.

In accordance with a condition laid down by the Wellcome Trust, which has contributed $14 million, the consortium has pledged to put its results on a public database. This is important because information in the public domain cannot be patented. However, there will still be commercial opportunities. After all, the snip map is just that — a map of snips. Companies will still have to identify which clusters of snips are associated with specific diseases. This information can then be used to develop diagnostics and therapies, which they can go on to patent.

"It is a bit like making an A to Z of the UK — individual companies can still go on to develop and market road maps of Birmingham or London," explains Dr Michael Morgan, chief executive of the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus in Cambridge, which houses the Sanger Centre. "It is a kind of pre-competitive project. Some of the pharmaceutical companies were sceptical at first. There was a lot of discussion but at the end of the day this was the preferred route." So what is in it for the participating pharmaceutical companies that have stumped up $3 million each?

Dr Morgan sums up: "It raises the level of the playing field for everyone, for modest expenditure. It is good for us, since we would probably ended up funding something like this at full cost to ourselves."

Not making such information available would stifle innovation, according to Arthur Holden, chairman and chief executive of the SNP Consortium. "The more people that have access to this tool, the more creativity and success there will be in coming up with new diagnostics and therapies," he says. "I know a company that is charging $30 million for access to a genetic database. How many companies and universities can afford that?

"This information will lay the foundation for innovation in medicine for the next century. There will be far more competition and progress, especially among smaller companies, if the information is freely available rather than locked up by private concerns."

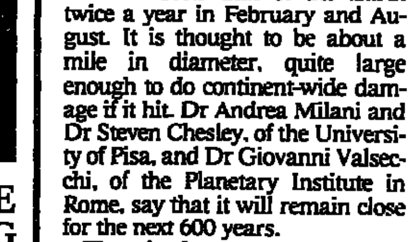
He says such collaborations have occurred elswhere: "We are talking about setting up a core technical platform for the industry. Similar things have been done in the telecommunications, computer and defence industries."

Dr Morgan points out that it would be incredibly expensive for one company to go it alone on a snip database. Nonetheless, this is what Dr Venter is planning to do. Dr Morgan is sceptical that Dr Venter and his company, Celera, will succeed, as he anticipates the SNP Consortium will produce the "gold standard" among snip databases.

"Craig was prepared to participate in our consortium on his own terms, which was unacceptable to us as it would have restricted access," Dr Morgan says. "Since our announcement, he has said that he is going to make his own snip map and make it ten times bigger and 20 times better than ours.

"It would be arrogant for one company to think that it had all the expertise necessary to understand the kind of information that will come out of it. We are talking about the blueprint of humanity. This is going to help us to understand what makes us human. I don't think we can fully conceive of what is going to emerge."

Spot the asteroid



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

IT IS remarkable what you find once you start looking. Since a systematic search of the sky for near-Earth asteroids began, the numbers are piling up at a remarkable rate. Fifty-five new asteroids with the potential to collide with the Earth were found during 1998 — more than in the previous six years. None of the asteroids poses a threat, but there are plenty more to find. The American space agency Nasa, which says there are 2,000 such objects, set a target of identifying most of them within ten years. So far, 163 have been found. A new telescope, due to go on line soon, will speed up the search, but the target looks optimistic.

Dr Brian Marsden, of the Minor Planets Centre in Cambridge, Massachusetts, expects 90 per cent of the potentially dangerous asteroids to be found within 17 years.

A few years is hardly likely to make any difference, says Don Yeomans, of Nasa's Near Earth Orbit programme. He expects that if there is an asteroid with the Earth's name on it, we will get ten, 20 or 30 years' warning, enough time to devise a way of shifting the asteroid's orbit, perhaps by explosives, to ensure that it misses.

One recent discovery, called 1999 AN10, has caused controversy not because of any risk of an impact but because of the way its discovery was handled.

A year ago, some astronomers were embarrassed after Dr Marsden gave warning that an asteroid might be on course for a 2028 impact. More refined calculations, when further details of its orbit were known, showed the fears to be unfounded. The low-key announcement of AN10 is seen by some, including Benny Peiser, an anthropologist at John Moores University in Liverpool, as an overreaction to that embarrassment. The news slipped out on a website in the form of a paper from three Italian astronomers.

The interest in AN10 is that its orbit is tilted at an angle of 70 degrees and intersects that of the Earth twice a year in February and August. It is thought to be about a mile in diameter, quite large enough to do continent-wide damage if it hit. Dr Andrea Milani and Dr Steven Chesley, of the University of Pisa, and Dr Giovanni Valsecchi, of the Planetary Institute in Rome, say that it will remain close for the next 600 years.

There is, they say, a one-in-a-billion chance that it could strike the Earth in August 2039, but that is smaller than being struck by an unknown asteroid any day without warning, and not something to worry about. The long-term potential needs careful watching, though, as the orbit of AN10 may be disturbed by its constant close approaches to the Earth, possibly increasing the chances of impact.

Dr Peiser says that he finds the lack of public notice disturbing. But astronomers seem happy with the way it was done. "I commend them for the process of being careful," Richard Binzel, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told the *Boston Globe*. "On a scale of zero to five," he said, "this thing is a zero."

Wine is fine to clean up your ulcer

GOOD news about moderate drinking keeps on coming. As well as protecting against heart disease, it may also reduce the risk of ulcers, according to a new study.

Alcohol is antiseptic, so Dr Hermann Brenner, of the University of Ulm, in Germany, wondered if it might be effective against *Helicobacter pylori*, the bacterium which is credited with causing ulcers.

He tested blood samples from 1,785 volunteers in the German National Health and Nutrition Survey for antibodies against *H pylori* — evidence that they were infected with it — and also questioned them about their lifestyle.

In *Epidemiology*, he and colleagues report that moderate drinkers — those who consumed the equivalent of a glass of wine or a pint of beer a day — were more than a third less likely to harbour *H pylori* than non-drinkers.

Wine appears to do the job rather better than beer, reducing the infection rate by 42 per cent, compared to 25 per cent. He did not look at heavy drinkers. "It's another piece of the puzzle suggesting that moderate alcohol consumption, as practised by the vast majority of the population, does indeed offer some health benefits," he says.

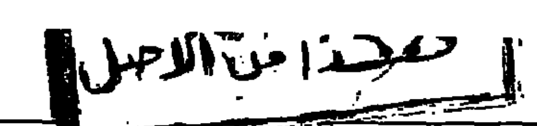
Birds trigger songs that enlighten

THE birds are in fine voice at the moment, as the lengthening days of spring inspire them to song. Scientists at John Hopkins University have discovered that the process is triggered by melatonin, a hormone known to be linked to the daily cycle in many species, including humans.

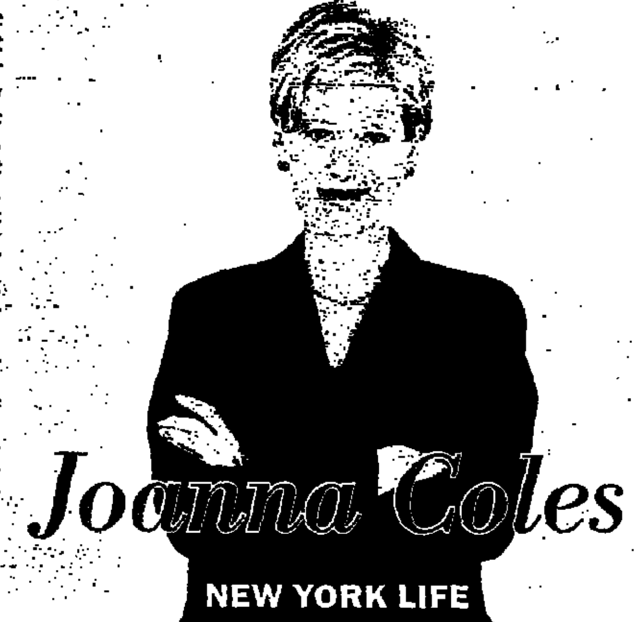
The part of the brain responsible for song in birds, the high vocal centre, actually expands as the days grow longer. This was believed to be controlled by levels of the male sex hormone testosterone, but the change happens even in birds that have been castrated.

In experiments on starlings, Gregory Ball and George Bentley, of Johns Hopkins, and Thomas Van't Hof, of the Max Planck Institute, have shown that by providing extra melatonin they can control the changes, regardless of the length of the day. The findings could have wider implications, says Dr Bentley.

"We would never have discovered this if we had started out trying to see what melatonin is doing in humans," he says. "Now, with this discovery, we can feed back the information to other scientists and perhaps help them to understand what is happening in other species."



Excuse me, what is mind-blowing sex?



Joanna Coles

NEW YORK LIFE

"WHAT is sexy?" demands the huge red-and-white banner hanging over the Jacob K Javits Convention Center on 35th Street, usually home to New York's computer and auto shows, but this week taken over by Erotica USA, Manhattan's biggest exhibition so far about sex.

The programme promises "everything that is new and exciting in erotic music, videos, piercing and wine and spirits ..." Inside, the Center is a jumble of stalls selling erotic pictures, penis fruit gums, nipple lollipops and latex clothing.

I wander over to join a small crowd gathered around a stall called The Erogenous Zone: A Swingers' Club For the Next Millennium. Behind the salesman, a tall, blonde girl in micro, crotch-hugging shorts is riding a child's rocking horse and spooning melon chunks out of a plastic cup.

"It is for people who want to try swinging but haven't dared," explains Martin Davis, national sales director, thrusting an Erogenous Zone Franchise Business Plan at me. "If you go to Kansas or San Francisco you know what a Big Mac is going to be like: safe, clean and fun. Well, the Erogenous Zone will be like the McDonald's of sex. Our focus groups found that most people would like to try swinging but are too scared."

Above him a television set is demonstrating the Erogenous Zone's Boom Boom Room, an adult version of a bouncy castle where you can jump on dozens of inflatable sex dolls.

There is also an artist's impression of adult swings, sturdier versions of the playground variety, to be ridden while you are naked.

Martin reads aloud from the brochure: "Who doesn't have fond memories of hours spent in the playground?

"The suggested entrance fee is $80 per couple," he continues. "Men must arrive with a female partner. Women may enter singly and are charged $40." He adds: "We will also have a room with stuffed animals and cuddly toys."

"Have you had much interest in the franchise?" I ask.

"Oh yes," he smiles. "It costs $30,000 a year and next year we're opening in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago."

On the stage at the end of the hall, a tired girl dressed in a latex nun's habit is dancing to *Voulez-Vous Couchez Avec Moi?* with two men dressed as Roman gladiators. In another stall, designed like a doctor's reception, a quartet of blondes with hugely augmented breasts are campaigning for Brad J Jacobs, "award-winning breast-implant surgeon", whose handiwork they are demonstrating. According to Brad's banner, he "invented the procedure to correct the problems of saline implant augmentation".

I pause at another stand presided over by the portly, bearded pornographer Al Goldstein, Editor and founder of *Screw* magazine. He is wearing a florid jerkin that matches his complexion and sucking a chocolate finger.

"I'm leaving America," he announces. "I'm going to Amsterdam, where I can smoke Cuban cigars in peace. At 63 I'm an embarrassment to my son."

Suddenly he encircles my waist with a bearish arm and hauls me on to his lap. "I love you and think of you," he rasps, breathing hot chocolaty fumes on me. I squirm free and escape to the morning lecture.

"Raise your hands if you're comfortable talking about sexual experimentation," cries Sari Locker, the relationship correspondent for *Channel 2 News*. Today's lecture is called Mind-blowing Sex in the Real World. There are 28 of us in the audience. Sari, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Amazing Sex*, tries again. "Come on, raise your hands," she orders. Eventually, five hands go up sheepishly.

"Wow, we have five sexual experimenters," she says. "So are there any questions?" Unusually, for New Yorkers are generally quick with questions, there is silence.

"Oh, a relatively quiet group," Sari laughs bravely.

The silence continues. "Aren't there any areas people are interested in?"

Eventually a hand creeps up and a white-faced woman with long black hair mouths something towards the podium.

"I can't hear you," Sari says brightly. "Do you want to repeat your question?" The woman mouths again.

"The question is, 'How do you move from one fetish to another?'" roars Sari, making a lasso of the microphone cable and striding to the front of the stage as we all swing round to check the woman out.

"With a fetish, communication is very important, very important," Sari replies. "And it may be, in the end, that a couple don't have sexual compatibility."

The questioner looks nonplussed and a grey-haired couple sidle out.

"Any other questions?" Sari's eyes roam desperately until they settle on my neighbour, an attractive older woman who half raises her hand. "What *is* mind-blowing sex? I mean, how do you achieve it?"

Sari nods. "Is that your husband with you?" she asks, motioning to the man sitting next to her. The woman smiles noncommittally. "Hello, sir," Sari says anyway. "I define mind-blowing sex as when you're totally in the moment. It's like when you know that you are protected from STDs and you're not thinking about how fat your thighs are."

My neighbour stares back doubtfully. "I'm older and I have a slightly different perspective," she says hesitantly. "Do you give the same advice to married people as to young people?"

"Well, in marriage there is the issue of sexual boredom," says Sari. "But you can always try different things. Wear a wig! Lose weight, then it's like having sex with a new body! If you're a man, buy a penis expander!

"A woman doesn't need to have breast augmentation; she can put plastic implants in her bra," she continues earnestly. "Or have sex in a business suit!"

We contemplate this advice until, finally, another woman, sitting on her own, puts her hand up. "Can it still be mind-blowing sex if you feel lonely or sad afterwards?"

Caught in the crossfire

In the final extract from her new book, **Simone E. Katzenberg**, a family solicitor, says children must come first



PHOTONICA



Innocent victims: most children of divorced parents eventually learn to cope, but it is vital to consider their emotional needs before your own

During the breakdown of a relationship, the subsequent separation and divorce, one or both parents will have to cope not only with their own feelings but with those of their children. Children are the innocent victims of a relationship that breaks down. They are the reason that parents remain in contact long after the dust has settled on their divorce. They are the ones whom parents should try their utmost to protect from the devastation that an acrimonious divorce can wreak. It will at times be unbelievably difficult.

If you succeed the reward will be well-adjusted and balanced children who will be able to enjoy time with both parents and who can make the most of having two homes.

Children in divorce need to know that both parents still love them; that their parents are divorcing each other, not divorcing themselves from the children. They need to know that by showing love for one parent, they are not betraying the other; that they can continue to love both parents openly without each parent competing for more love. And the only way this can be achieved is through reassurance from both parents.

But how do you do this when your partner is demanding contact with the children but refusing to pay maintenance, or flaunting his or her new partner while you suffer the pain of the breakdown? Or when your partner blocks or sabotages your efforts to maintain a relationship with your children? What you really need to avoid is your children being caught in the middle of a tug-of-war in which no one wins anything.

You need to be constantly aware of the effect that your behaviour will have on the children. Thoughtless or vindictive behaviour towards your partner can rebound, often unintentionally, on the children. Think before you act.

The children need time to adjust. Constant and ferocious conflict between their parents does not help them. There must never be a contest over who has more time with the children; the children must not be made to feel that they have to choose one parent over the other. It may be that in order to avoid a battle, one of you has to back off to protect your child from a wrangle.

At each stage, step back and try to separate the way you feel towards each other from the way you feel towards your children. Question the motive behind your actions and try with all honesty to put the children first, doing what is right for them even if it does not necessarily satisfy your needs.

How do you tell the children? At the breakdown stage, many parents cannot control their emotions in each other's presence. The children may have been exposed to frequent tantrums and rages and it may be impossible for the parents to sit down together and explain their plans to them.

The situation at home may have been unstable for so long that the children realise it is just a matter of time before one parent goes. That in itself may be a relief to them as it will end the constant bickering and conflict.

In ideal circumstances, you may want to wait a while before you break the news to the children. However, your distress may mean that it is impossible to continue putting on a brave front.

If you can tell the children together, do so. The children can be assured that even though Mum and Dad can and will no longer live together, their continued love for them remains, independent of their feelings for each other. You can all cry together and answer questions the children may have.

> Take the telephone off the hook, hold each other and talk

Provide as much reassurance as you can that they will be able to see the parent who is leaving. What has happened has nothing to do with them but is between you as adults. Your dual role as parents will continue. It will be the beginning of a period of adjustment for all of you, and you must take it one step at a time.

You may be the parent who is left to tell the children without the support of the other parent. Choose a time when no one is in a hurry to get anywhere, no guests are expected and a favourite television programme is not about to start: wait until homework is complete, take the telephone off the hook, hold each other and talk. If a child is about to take exams or a birthday party is imminent, it may be better to wait until later.

It is important to notify the schools of the situation and to talk to the children's head teachers. The school can give your child any extra attention and support needed, and alert you if any difficulties arise as a result of the breakdown.

If you are the parent who leaves home, notify the school of your change of address. The school can keep you informed of all school activities and functions as well as send you reports, as extra reports need to be requested. If your relationship has broken down to the extent that you are not talking to each other at all, this is important to preserve access to information about the children at school.

During the early stages of separation, try to be perceptive towards the often silent signals that children give when they are uncertain and distressed. Encourage them to talk to you — or a close friend or other family member — about their concerns. Avoid attributing blame to the other parent. Step back and see how the children feel, and think of how you can help them. Try to put your feelings for them first. They do not need to be caught in the crossfire of emotions.

If you are the parent who has left, you may desperately want to see the children every day. Try not to demand more than your partner will permit as you will only stir up conflict, frequently in the presence of the children.

Reassure your partner that you are not trying to take the children away. If your partner does not feel threatened, you are likely to find that contact is increased. By stepping back a little you are removing the power that your former partner can exert over you.

If you have been left with the children and they speak to your partner on the phone, leave them alone and do not interrupt. If you are the caller, it does not help to criticise the other parent or to tell the children how unhappy you are.

Conflict over the children will continue if your partner is stuck in an emotional stage that you have moved through. If you experience continual difficulties over contact with the children, keep a diary of all telephone calls and contact. This should include attempts to speak to the children when they are "unavailable" and when the answerphone is on in an attempt to block calls, and details of when contact takes place, should have taken place and did not take place. Only time will tell how the children's relationship with the other parent develops or diminishes. Children adapt and get on with their lives. If they are confident about their continued contact with both parents, they are more likely to accept the situation. School concerts, parents' evenings, sports days, weddings and family functions may always be uncomfortable. But somehow or other you will all adapt and find a way in which, while not necessarily grinning and bearing it, you will cope.

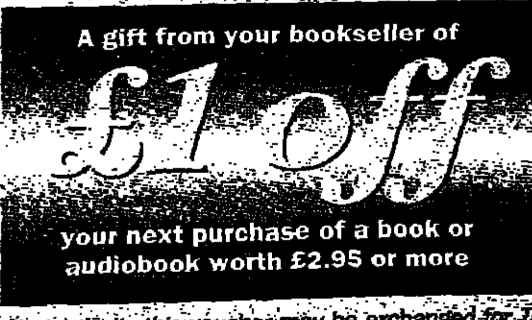
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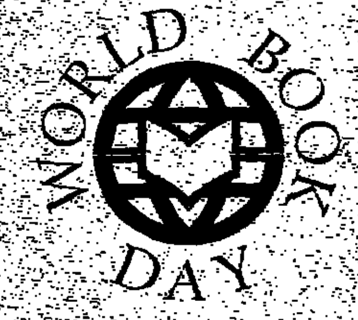
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CHANGING TIMES

A scorpions' tale of new Labour

Roland Watson on the feuds that poison Mandelson's life

It takes a rare mix of the brilliant and the flawed, the spiky and the exotic to elbow aside the Balkans and secure a leading slot on the war-dominated news agenda. But one Labour politician has it. Peter is back. Back in the news and soon to be back in the Government, according to the excited gossip surrounding the launch of a biography, Mr Mandelson's second of the year.

Whereas the first book took delight in helping to knock him out of Government, the mood music around the second is about rehabilitation. Mr Mandelson is less than four months into an uncertain sentence but already talk of a comeback is in the air. And yet the details contained in Donald Macintyre's book, published today, though considerably less explosive than Paul Routledge's home loan revelation, may yet turn out to be more corrosive.

The portrait emerging of the former Trade and Industry Secretary adds to his reputation as a famously complex man. He is a prima donna prone to fits of petulance and dramatic door-slamming exits, but also a suffering servant who is prepared to resign rather than allow his epically bad relations with Gordon Brown threaten Labour's election hopes. He is someone with enough self-awareness to parody himself as Tony Blair's "little helper". But he is also the reticent celebrity, fiercely protective of his sexuality.

Mr Mandelson has always had the power to discomfit the cautious and confound expectations. But even those accustomed to his distinctive style have raised eyebrows at his latest media strategy. Mr Macintyre's book is enlivened by extensive quotation from a slew of private letters, including some very intimate notes received by Mr Mandelson from Mr Blair.

It appears likely that Mr Mandelson chose to unburden himself dramatically after his departure from Cabinet just before Christmas. Mr Macintyre's book has not overshot its deadline for nothing. Those close to Mr Mandelson suggest the increased level of co-operation this year was designed to imbue the whole exercise with a cathartic quality.

But how is Mr Blair to feel now that the privacy of his correspondence with Mr Mandelson has been made public? How helpful has Tony's little helper been in revealing that the new Labour project was almost blown apart by two of its strongest personalities? Will the Prime Minister find this feud's eruption into the public domain in all its poisonous detail a "cathartic" experience?

And how, too, is Gordon Brown to feel when he reads the words of Michael Wills, a junior Trade and Industry minister and a part of the Chancellor's inner circle. Mr Wills said of Messrs Brown and Mandelson that they were "like scorpions in a bottle: only one of them will crawl out alive"?

The Brown camp is declining to comment on the book. The fact that the Red Lion no longer enjoys as much patronage from Charlie Whelan has meant the waters between the adversaries remain calmer than they might be.

Moreover, Mr Brown has been making genuine attempts to help Mr Mandelson through a gentle rehabilitation. He has brought him into the planning of the Scottish election campaign and the pair have had several post-resignation meetings to try to use the shock of the event to reheat their relationship.

But how will the sheer acrimony of their relationship, understandably described by Mr Macintyre as dysfunctional, help them if and when they become ministerial colleagues again? Cartoonists will have a field day as they address the question of how many scorpions can survive around a Cabinet table.

Mr Mandelson continues to have fervent supporters in Downing Street who yearn for his return. Blairite ministers have been discreetly canvassing Westminster opinion as to the likely impact of an early Mandelson return. The clear implication is that Mr Blair has not ruled out a comeback for his friend before the next general election.

But does the Government need him? Relations between Nos 10 and 11 have been considerably better since his departure. Ministers no longer feel quite the same need to hasten around Whitehall watching their backs with feverish concern.

> Blair may not be happy to see his letters published

At the Trade and Industry Department Stephen Byers is delivering a broadly Mandelsonian agenda, with the odd tweak here and there, albeit with less of a pro-European agenda. The Government is hardly less popular for his absence, with poll ratings remaining stratospheric.

There is a strain of thought, heretical to his supporters, that the evidence of the past few months shows that Mr Mandelson was the critical cog in Labour's pre-election wheel and may yet play a similar role in future elections, but that is where he operates best.

Such a view ignores Mr Mandelson's success at the DTI, where civil servants still mourn his departure, and the fact that it would help Mr Blair if his chief adviser was allowed into the Cabinet loop again.

But it is hard to see Mr Mandelson's return being accelerated by this week's revelations. Members of the "Way Back" group of Blairites dedicated to his return were plotting the Mandelson comeback over homely shepherd's pie and supermarket red wine in the weeks before the book came out. They were confident that a more rounded picture of their friend would begin to emerge this year. They were delighted with his more restrained, almost puritan, backbench profile. But, once again, by thrusting himself forward, Mr Mandelson is not letting his complex character be seen in the best light.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Three strikes and out

Nato is fighting a trio of wars with Milosevic — and none will succeed

Simon Jenkins

There are three Kosovan wars running at present. Nato has lost the first, the second is still being fought, and the third has not properly begun. Since conflict takes a mounting toll on reason, we must struggle to keep these wars distinct.

War A: This began in January with Nato warning President Milosevic against "a humanitarian disaster in Kosovo". Mr Milosevic declined to be warned. Despite intelligence of his aggressive intent against the Kosovan Albanians, Nato's military response was hesitant. It already had 2,000 ground monitors in Kosovo and had placed a 10,000-strong Nato intervention force in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Amid much confusion during the Lewinsky affair, President Clinton's Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, threatened Mr Milosevic not just with sanctions but with a bombing war if he failed to grant Kosovo "partial autonomy". In March this threat had to be honoured.

Whether Mr Milosevic's Operation Horseshoe — the methodical cleansing of Kosovo — predated the January ultimatum is unclear. What is beyond doubt is that Nato knew of his readiness to visit on the Albanians what Croatia had visited on the Krajina Serbs in 1994-95. After the clearing of Krajina, some 250,000 evicted Serbs descended on Belgrade and demanded Mr Milosevic's head. Having lost Krajina, he was not going to lose Kosovo.

Yet Nato removed the monitors and aid workers from Kosovo. Both groups had served as witnesses and partial restraints on Serb (and Kosovo Liberation Army) atrocities. They were probably the outside world's best hope of impeding Mr Milosevic's grim determination. As it was, far from impeding the disaster, Nato's strategy gave the Serbs a "permissive environment" for the ethnic cleansing.

The cleansing has not been, as Nato spokesmen claim, the worst humanitarian outrage since the Second World War, an exaggeration many Africans and Asians might consider racist. However, it has been brutal and horrific to witness, and holds a peculiar abhorrence to Europeans within the memory of Hitler's war. As of yesterday, more than half the Albanian population of Kosovo has been expelled from the province. The rest have probably been killed or are being held hostage. Mr Milosevic's Operation Horseshoe may be a sick and hollow victory over a burnt and empty land. But for Serb nationalists the securing of Kosovo is a triumph, achieved while the mightiest armed force in the world did nothing but dally and bomb. Nato pledged to draw the line against Mr Milosevic in Kosovo, and did not do so. Nato sent in monitors, then withdrew them. Nato sent reinforcements to Macedonia but left them setting up camps for victims of a war Nato half-threatened but would not fight. War A has been lost.

War B: This is a quite separate war. It is being waged at a vertical distance of 15,000ft over War A and mostly in the Danube basin 200 miles from Kosovo. It is a classic air war, in pursuit not of territory but of a political goal, as in Iraq, to get a regime to change its mind. As a result, its objectives tend to be hazy and shifting. Air defences and other military targets are bombed first. As these targets are exhausted "target drift" starts, leading to a drift in objectives. Since War A is all but over, there seems little point in risking pilots by attacking the Yugoslav Army in the field. Nato is now powerless to stop ethnic cleansing, unless it can induce Mr Milosevic to change his mind.

Targets are thus extended to non-military sites, to blocking the Danube and to destroying chemical factories, fertiliser plants, roads and bridges. Nato is seeking to impose a crippling economic burden on the Yugoslav people — we hear no more about "just bombing Milosevic" — in the hope of turning them against their elected Government and forcing Mr Milosevic from power. Hence the toxic cloud over Belgrade. Hence the emphasis on Nato's "credibility", as if credibility lay in demonstrating the sheer potency of Nato's weapons.

Such political objectives are notoriously hard to control. They depend on an accurate reading of the internal politics of a State under siege. Victories are measured not in burning tanks or factories but in morale, propaganda and power play. Last week War B briefly intruded on the tail-end of War A, when Nato bombed a refugee convoy. Spin-doctors sought to dismiss it as an accident of war and attacked the media, including reporters working against ferocious odds in Belgrade. But in wars such as War B, collateral damage is always a victory for the enemy. The success of a sortie is measured not in hits but in media *coups de théatre*. Nato's Jamie Shea is a frontline general.

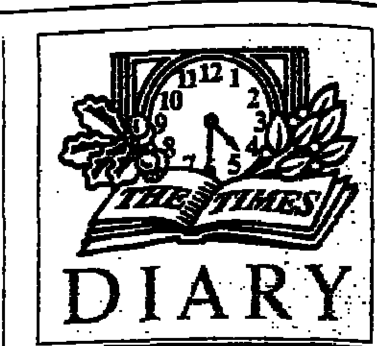
This second war has not yet been won or lost. It is conceivable, but unlikely, that history could be stood on its head and Yugoslavia be the first country bombed into changing its Government. Other apologists suggest that bombing might "soften up" Mr Milosevic for some Russian-UN deal, to get him to readmit an Albanian resettlement monitoring force into Kosovo. I still think a version of this is the most plausible outcome of War B, but it would be hard to avoid calling it another defeat. Nato would have fought its way back to much the same trench as it was in last October. Or Nato might simply continue its act of punishment until it has made Belgrade another Stalingrad. This "Stone Age" strategy, launched with similar conviction on Vietnam, is the logical consequence of credibility and a "just war" taking precedence over common sense. To call this winning War B would be absurd.

War C: This is the war that dares Nato to breathe its name. Despite denials, a force of 80,000 troops appears to be moving into position to invade Kosovo and set up what would amount to a Western military protectorate. This involves abandoning Nato's pledge that it would send in soldiers only after a negotiated settlement, once considered a legal necessity for such intervention. It flatly contradicts Robin Cook's assurance, repeated yesterday, that "We're not going to fight our way in. We've made that very clear from the start. It would involve too many casualties." Bill Clinton and Tony Blair have pledged likewise. Yet War C's sabre-rattling gives Mr Milosevic every inducement to prepare his people and his army for an invasion. He is now mining the roads and appears to be holding back tens of thousands of refugees as potential human shields.

War C was always rejected by Nato because democracy would not wear it. Democracy apparently wanted Mr Milosevic to be stopped, but cleanly and not at the expense of any Nato lives. Bombers are not allowed to fly low: they can risk missing their targets but not getting killed. Nato wants to seem tough, but tough at 15,000ft, not in a "bayonet, knife and bullet war". That is why Nato would not fight War A. Because of that timidity, democracy may now be asked to stomach the same war but at a vastly higher cost. Nobody could say that War C is unwinnable. Kosovo is not the same as Vietnam and if Nato cannot hold a province the size of Yorkshire it is in dire straits. But a Nato-ruled Kosovo would be even more burnt and barren than it is now. Kosovo cannot be rendered "autonomously" Albanian, only autonomously Nato. War C cannot rectify War A. It could only be a war of punitive desperation. It would do little more than change the guard over Kosovo's empty fields and rotting corpses. They are Mr Milosevic's doing, for which his people and perhaps a court of law will one day hold him to account. Nato cannot be party to yet more killing.

Of these three wars, War C is the only one that is militarily coherent, yet it is the maddest war of all. Mr Clinton and Mr Blair are right on this: the cost is too great for the gain. So where has Nato's hubris got us? I can hardly believe it. The turbulent 20th-century is about to end on a note of stupendous irony: a worsted Nato pleading with Russia to sue for peace.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Willson wheels

READERS are doubtless impressed with the passion Quentin Willson, a presenter on the BBC's *Top Gear*, displays when condemning the evils of "clocking".

Quent, the Nissan Micra to Jeremy Clarkson's Rolls-Royce, has been a victim himself of the Arthur Daley practice of rewinding mileometers. But in his case he ended up being convicted of supplying a clocked car before he joined the TV series in 1991.

Willson (left, pictured with Clarkson) emphasises it was ignorance. As a former car dealer himself, he bought the vehicle at auction, was unaware of its true mileage and sold it on to a private buyer, and then came unstuck.

A friend of his at the BBC says: "Quentin wants improved legislation in this area. He wants consumers and the motor industry to be better protected, which is why he writes about it in his column."





A PLUTOCRAT bearing a vague resemblance to Geoffrey Robinson, now free to spend more time with his money, was sighted at The Savoy. Gloomily, the figure reflected: "It is very difficult to buy a decent bottle of wine in London for under £400 these days."

■ IT IS a rare privilege to read one's own obituary. But as Dave Swarbrick learnt of his demise in *The Daily Telegraph* he had reason to believe that reports of his death had been rather exaggerated.

Jilly, wife of the former Fairport Convention violinist, awoke to an anxious call from a friend. "It came as a sledgehammer," she says. Now our Dave had been a bit peaky (his emphysema had been aggravated by a chest infection and he had been flown back from Germany to a Coventry hospital); but he had just moved to an ordinary ward and was looking forward to a visit from a physio. Swarb, as he is known to intimates, took it well: "It's not the first time I have died in Coventry."

Those undertakers on *The Daily Telegraph* obituary desk (who always look forward to a cold snap) say simply: "We were just misinformed, that's all." I, for one, wish Mr Swarbrick a speedy recovery.



■ DOES Martin Bell want to move to Manhattan? On a beano to Kosovo just before the bombing, the man in white lobbied United Nations sorts about the possibility of a juicy job once his mandate as Tatton's MP runs out. But I hear his audience was distinctly unimpressed with our Mart.

Russians at the UN feel that when he was reporting the Bosnian war he was too matey with the Muslims, who they thought were just as beastly as the Croats and Serbs. The Russians would block his appointment because they feel Bell's stance would be unhelpful.

PRINCIPLES are handy. Luciano Benetton, he of the tasteless adverts and even more alarming jumpers, has refused to pay tax on his Argentine properties. It's not that he's tight, you understand: Mr Benetton is protesting against a recent land tax hike — to a crippling 3 per cent.

■ CHERIE BOOTH's motivation for joining Labour in 1970 when she was a sweet 16 was purely romantic. She was recruited into the Young Socialists by a Mrs Speight, a teacher at her school (was this ethical, me wonders).

The PM's wife admits: "I joined with friends. I suspect our motives were more social than political as it was a good way to meet boys." Later she learnt that there were better catches to be had in chambers than on those dreary ban the bomb marches.

JASPER GERARD

'On trains, Her Majesty is allowed to smoke in the lavatories, although not cigars or pipes'

Alan Coren

Since today is HM the Queen's unofficial birthday, I know that you will want me not only to wish her many happy unofficial returns on all our behalfs, but also to take this opportunity to reply to those countless thousands of you who wrote to me regarding the recent Buckingham Palace statement that the Queen was exempt, "by reason of her special position", from the law requiring her subjects to wear a rear seatbelt. Were there, you clamoured to learn, any other special dispensations which Her Majesty alone enjoyed?

The reason that I have not replied earlier is because, not surprisingly, there turned out to be a huge amount of painstaking research involved; but I'm delighted to tell you that I am now, at last, in a position to publish in the national interest what I hope with all my heart is a usefully informative — if by no means comprehensive — list.

When not travelling by car, for example, Her Majesty is uniquely entitled to stand upstairs on buses. Should she spit, however, she is liable to the same fine as anyone else, although she would, of course, be given time to pay. On trains, she is allowed to smoke in the lavatories, but not cigars or pipes. She may also lean out of the window without penalty, except on InterCity routes. On the London Underground, she may not go up a down escalator, or vice-versa, but she is allowed to jump over the barrier if she hears her Tube train coming, provided she has a valid ticket for the journey. When flying, she is not permitted to get up before the plane has come to a complete halt, but she does not have to take care when opening the overhead lockers. She is of course, allowed to lean her bicycle against shop windows.

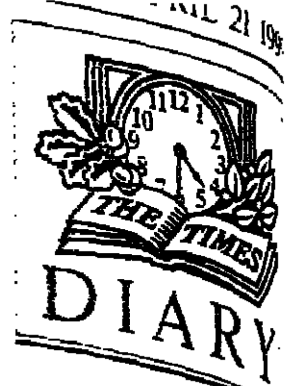
Sport, as you might expect, is a somewhat more complex juridical area for Her Majesty. When bowling, she is permitted to deliver more than one bouncer per over — except in one-day matches — but she is nevertheless required to observe current ECB dress-codes and not wear a head-scarf when batting or fielding. She can be given out lbw, but never stumped, and in the unfortunate event of a run-out, it is her partner who must surrender his wicket, irrespective of fault. As to football, the Queen is allowed, when playing in goal, to move before a penalty is struck, and would not normally be sent off for bad language, unless violence were involved. In rugger, she does not need to call for a mark or leave the field when bleeding, and in tennis she may abuse her racket as much as she likes. In athletic competition, she is allowed four attempts at the high jump and, when throwing the hammer, to put one foot, but not both, outside the circle. The Queen is also uniquely permitted to carry a spare baton in the 4 x 400 relay, in case she drops one. In snooker, she is permitted to pot the six remaining colours in any order she chooses. Should her opponent go down during a boxing match, Her Majesty is not required to walk to a neutral corner.

She is allowed to busk on her highway, but not in public houses which do not have a music licence. In zoos (with the exception of Whipsnade), Her Majesty is permitted to feed the animals.

When it comes to shopping, the Queen is allowed to go through the checkout marked "6 items or less" with 7 items or more, but no special dispensation applies in regard to taking the trolley from the premises. In Post Offices, staff may not ask her to go to the next counter, and in petrol stations she does not have to switch off the engine while filling up, though she must take the cigarette out of her mouth. She is allowed to bring her dog into foodshops, but if it widdles against anything, she is not exempt from prosecution, provided a notice to that effect is prominently displayed.

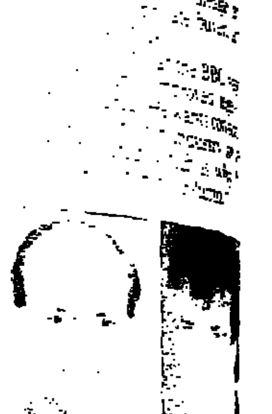
Should, however, a notice be prominently displayed in any public place stating that bill stickers will be prosecuted, Her Majesty may safely ignore this, just as she may with impunity disregard any injunction to leave these premises as she would wish to find them. She is not, mind, exempt from the law in the matter of spraying graffiti, and if told to use the footbath before entering a public swimming-pool, she is legally obliged to comply. She is allowed to drop litter only in the royal parks, but may walk on the grass wherever she takes a fancy to do so.

And finally, when driving — in addition to the seatbelt dispensation with which we began all this — Her Majesty is also allowed to hoot after 11pm, and overtake in the Blackwall Tunnel. If she were to park on a double-yellow line, however, her car would be liable to be towed away, but only by a peer of the realm, with a silken rope.

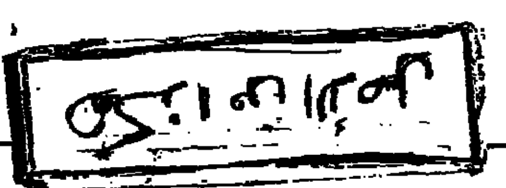



DIARY

Willson wheels







FOOD FOR THE TABLE

Tories need big ideas not small improvements

William Hague spent last night at a dinner to mark the 20th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher's initial election as Prime Minister. He paid a full and appropriate tribute, mindful all the while of the giant gulf between his current prospects and her past achievements. Anniversaries are potent fathers of mythology. It is fashionable in certain Tory circles today to present the Conservative manifesto of 1979 as a seed that contained within it a fully-developed philosophy and programme. In truth, this document was a much more modest text.

That Conservative manifesto did, however, concentrate on the right issues. Mrs Thatcher identified the basic rate of income tax, trade union power, and the dire performance of a state-saturated economy as the central questions. These were, to borrow from Mr Hague's recently adopted vocabulary, the "kitchen table" issues that then absorbed the electorate. The Thatcher Governments proposed radical solutions but imposed their approach step-by-step. This combination of steely principle with subtle practice has ensured her legacy.

Maurice Saatchi and Peter Lilley were both significant figures in the Thatcher years. Lord Saatchi was then known primarily for his powers of presentation, Mr Lilley for his policy initiatives. In a pamphlet published by the Centre for Policy Studies today and in the Rab Butler memorial lecture delivered yesterday these two men have traded places. Lord Saatchi and Dr Peter Warburton put forward the sort of radical plan for the reform of the tax and benefits system that would once have been associated with Mr Lilley. The former Cabinet minister explored the reasons why voters do not trust the Tories to run public services in a public spirited manner and what might be done to rectify this.

Lord Saatchi has made much the more convincing transformation. He argues that the Conservatives need a small set of big ideas that must include a fresh initiative on taxation. This contrasts with the views of the Conservative leader who has convinced himself that his party is seen as "obsessed by economics". According to the Saatchi thesis, voters shifted their support in 1997 because Tony Blair had eased concerns about Labour's competence to protect their incomes and because the Conservatives, after the ERM exit and huge tax increases, had betrayed their supporters. In short, on economics the Tories were not working.

The radical proposals to address this failure rest on a simplification of the tax and benefits system and at this stage, as the authors concede, are not fully developed. Currently small amounts of tax are extracted from a large number of relatively poor people who then need to have their incomes "topped up" by benefits. As well as stopping this, the authors would like to eradicate the vast numbers of tax allowances and reliefs within what is a hideously complicated tax structure. These two ideas would allow for the merger of several government agencies, thus producing administrative savings that could be redirected towards health and education spending.

This emphasis on tax simplification is right in itself and also one on which the Conservative Party should have already been offering proposals. It has not put forward ideas of consequence in this or any other area. A policy review is taking place under Mr Lilley: but if it were to move any more slowly a bunch of flowers and a letter of condolence would be in order.

In his lecture the Tory deputy leader noted that the Tories were not seen as credible custodians of public services because all too often they appeared to have nothing positive to articulate about them. He suggested that his party would not be able to advance enhanced private provision within a public-private partnership while its real objective appeared to be an outright privatisation of services for which there was no free market alternative.

Mr Lilley should then have outlined the language and policies that might persuade voters to embrace a different balance between public and private activity. Instead he stressed the limits of market economics with such intensity as to convince his listeners that the private sector was already making the maximum desirable contribution. He claimed that there was "no logical reason why any Conservative would want to restrict provision of health care, education or welfare below what the general public want and are prepared to pay for". Incremental improvement was the best he could offer.

This was less the Rab Butler than the Neville Chamberlain memorial lecture. Mr Lilley asserted that the NHS as currently constituted provides a level of service that works "as well as any in the world". He thought that education policy required devolving power not to parents, headteachers or schools but to teachers. Instead of demanding further welfare reform he seemed proud that the current discredited edifice had been "safe in our hands". If the rest of the Tory policy review looks anything like this farrago from the focus groups, there will be little hope for the party at the next election.

Mr Hague has rightly told the Shadow Cabinet that it must concentrate on the issues that matter to ordinary voters. The Conservatives must also associate themselves with substantial solutions to these core problems. They should pursue radical ends by empathetic means not incremental ends by means that are pathetic. Lord Saatchi and Peter Warburton have pointed the Conservative Party in the right direction. Mr Lilley seems, sadly, to prefer a form of intellectual surrender. Mr Hague must obtain a tighter grip on the policy process. There is little point in asking voters to sit around the kitchen table if all the Tories can provide is such gruel.

BEYOND THE BALKANS

Ankara's new Government should beware the call of the wild

Moderate Turkey has swung towards nationalism. In elections this week, 38 million voters favoured the Democratic Left party of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and also the far-right Nationalist Action party known to history as the Grey Wolves. The result makes it likely that Turkey's next government will be a robust coalition led by these two forces.

There is less to fear from this than meets the eye. The vote marks discontent with the weak political establishment; the desire it shows for strong government is positive. Graft and feuds have crippled six Governments since 1995. Economic reform is stalled. Ankara has failed to quell Kurdish nationalist unrest in the southeast. Requests to join the European Union have been snubbed.

This secular protest against Turkey's weakness is less alarming than the religious protest of elections in 1995. A shortlived Islamic Government irritated the army, which saw it as a threat to the secular constitution. The army will be relieved by the Islamists' slump now.

Mr Ecevit has become the symbol of national decisiveness by luck. He took over just a few weeks before the February capture of Kurdish nationalist Abdullah Ocalan, which prompted a surge of gratitude. But the respect he commands for ordering the invasion of Cyprus in 1974 will make him a stable coalition leader.

There is no immediate cause for concern about Turkey's foreign policy. Chilly relations with Europe could get chillier. But Europeans have only themselves to blame, after shabby treatment of a state whose wish for closer ties deserves respect.

What would cause alarm would be a more aggressive stance towards Turkey's rival, Greece, or bolder policy in its Balkan backyard. Either would worsen regional tension and revive fears of Turkish invasion among Greeks and Serbs. Here, Mr Ecevit should muzzle his probable partners. Nationalist Action's pan-Turkic ideology holds that Turks from the Balkans to China are one nation, led across the world by a legendary grey wolf. In the 1970s, they used violence: now they promise tamer tactics. But snapping at Kurds or regional rivals must be avoided. It would be dangerous to let the grey wolves have their head.

NOT BY SEA

New Roman ships but no Latin love

A schoolboy, gazing at a map of the Roman Empire, might deduce that the Romans were skilled sailors, whose power rested on their maritime might. Rome was so conveniently placed for the sea. And it was surely the most awkward place from which to run a land empire: an army had to march half way up Italy before it could even begin a journey anywhere.

The opposite was the case. The Romans were not natural sailors. Evidence of their power is the straight roads which crisscross Europe, not shipwrecks. Earlier this week, archaeologists near Pisa exhumed eight Roman ships. One might be the first warship ever found on what the Romans had the chutzpah to call "mare nostrum", our sea.

Rome's weakness was most seriously exposed when Carthage sent a fleet against Sicily during the first Punic War. The Romans responded by exploiting and improving others' inventions. Greek shipbuilders were employed to build a fleet of triremes and quinqueremes, the latter patterned after a Carthiginian warship. The Romans then changed naval warfare into something closer to that of a land battle by introducing the *corvus* — a hinged gangplank with a grappling hook. Instead of ramming a ship first, then boarding it later, Roman captains perfected the art of ram-raiding.

These innovations helped Rome to notch up a number of naval victories and secure trade routes to the breadbasket of Egypt. Yet although they boasted of supremacy "terra marique" — on land and sea — the Romans continued to rely on others to crew their boats. Nor, as their poets regularly proved, did they ever love life at sea. Lucretius enjoyed watching, from the safety of land, a ship being tossed about on a stormy sea. He did not relish the sufferings of others, merely realising what troubles he had been spared. Romans may have tried to rule the waves, but they never loved being on them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour MP backs war reporters

From Mrs Alice Mahon, MP for Halifax (Labour)

Sir, Congratulations on your leader defending freedom of speech on the bombing of Yugoslavia ("Sword and pen", April 16). Journalists such as John Simpson [letters, April 17 and 20], Robert Fisk and Tom Walker, who have the courage to report to us from a country under aerial bombardment, deserve nothing but praise for their efforts, irrespective of whether one agrees with the content of individual reports. Government ministers routinely describe Yugoslav television coverage of the war as hateful propaganda and even threatened at one point to bomb Serb transmitters because, hardly surprisingly, they showed little enthusiasm for Nato bombing their cities to rubble.

Yet the same ministers and officials, who criticise propaganda from the other side, are using anonymous briefings to try to impugn the integrity of the small number of Western journalists providing us with on-the-spot reports of the effects of the bombing being done in our name within Yugoslavia. The reason for this is clear. No objective observer on the spot could fail to note the systematic destruction of the civilian infrastructure by Nato bombers and the fact that virtually the entire Serbian population opposes this — just as much as we would if it were being done to our own country.

It may not be good news to learn that Nato bombs are uniting the Serbs behind Milosevic, or killing civilians every day, but it is certainly relevant when considering the pros and cons of this undeclared and illegal war.

In reality, most of our media are overwhelmingly influenced by Nato's own scarcely credible war propaganda. Journalists who try to report objectively, or have the temerity to ask ministers difficult questions, are performing a public service. They should be praised, not vilified.

The British public has the right to know the effect of bombing upon the lives and attitudes of the innocent population of Yugoslavia. If this raises questions about the aims and methods being used in what we were told would be a "humanitarian war", then those legitimate public concerns must be debated not suppressed.

Yours faithfully,
ALICE MAHON,
House of Commons.
April 16.

From Mr F. J. Howard

Sir, I'm sure that during the Second World War Winston Churchill would have loved to have had a German reporter in London regularly telling his countrymen how well the British people were standing up to German bombing raids and how firmly united they were behind their leader.

The only reason John Simpson and his ilk are allowed to remain in Belgrade is because it suits Milosevic to have them there.

When it did not suit in Kosovo, he threw them out.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK HOWARD,
37 Alcester Road, Lickey End,
Bromsgrove B60 1JT.
April 17.

From Mr Neven Lezaic

Sir, You note that as Nato bombing continues it will "pulverise the Yugoslav economy" (leading article, "Clear targets", April 14).

It is hard to imagine how a destroyed and impoverished Serbia will contribute to stability in Europe. Not only is bombing bridges, factories and other non-military targets wrecking what little remains of Yugoslavia's near-bankrupt economy but it is also weakening the democratic opposition to Milosevic. Europe already has one country where lawlessness and anarchy prevail, which is Albania. Nato bombs appear to be creating another.

It is also hard to imagine how more bombing will help make Kosovo a safer place for civilians — Albanian and Serbian — given that the bombing has fuelled extremism on both sides.

Any attempt to use ground troops to "drive [the Serb forces] out of Kosovo" would lead to enormous casualties. Not only would Serbia be fighting to defend its sovereignty, but it would also be defending its historic heartland. Western leaders continue to underestimate the Serbs' emotional and spiritual attachment to Kosovo. For better or worse, most Serbs would eat grass before giving up Kosovo.

Yours faithfully,
NEVEN LEZAIC,
43 Shepherds Bush Road, W6 7LU.
April 14.

From Mr Anthony Morris

Sir, As a veteran of combined operations on D-Day, in Burma and French Indo-China (now Vietnam), I agree completely with the gist of Mr Crispin Blunt's letter (April 14), but would go further and suggest that if our Prime Minister had been properly advised, he may have been the *only* person who could have diverted President Clinton from pressing Nato into the current operation with its increasingly tragic results.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MORRIS,
Carn Brea,
Castle Drive, St Mawes,
Truro, Cornwall TR2 5DE.
April 17.

Reform of prisons and probation

From Mr Terence Crolley

Sir, The Government must make up its mind about the role of compassion in the criminal justice system. Its muddled thinking is neatly demonstrated by the juxtaposition of your two stories on April 14. The first reports that the Chief Inspector of Prisons would like the Prison Service to be more caring: the second that the Home Secretary wants the Probation Service to be more authoritarian.

Is it any wonder the public is confused?

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE CROLLEY
(Assistant Chief Probation Officer, 1984-94),
12 Stanley Road,
Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JL.
April 16.

From Mr Stanley Best

Sir, Having read the report by the Chief Inspectors of Prisons and Probation (article, "Lifers spend too long in prison", April 7) I must agree with the authors that the system is in need of urgent reform. The unevenness of treatment mentioned is reflected in other ways as well.

As counsel instructed on behalf of a number of prisoners seeking, from time to time, judicial review of Parole Board decisions, I am told of the difficulties solicitors have in obtaining instructions from prisoners. Whereas many prison officers are helpful and compassionate, some are obstructive.

The solicitor, having booked a visit, may be told on arrival that there is no record of it and cannot see the prisoner. The visiting room at one prison, I am told, seems to be continually "being painted" so that visits are delayed. No sooner are they started, in a corridor, than visiting time is declared at an end.

The solicitor may be rejected for lack of proof of identity, even when he or she has visited that prison more than once and provided ample proof. I suspect that this difficulty is not confined to one or two individuals and suggest that the chief inspectors should investigate this blot on the system.

There are no uniform visiting hours or days and arranging, from a distance, to make more than one visit a day is impossible.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY BEST,
Veritas Chambers,
33 Corn Street,
Bristol BS1 1HT.
April 13.

From the Chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, Your leader "On probation" (April 14) is right to identify finding legislative time as the greatest hurdle for reform of probation services but we would dispute your conclusion that probation "is unlikely to make good election fodder".

The probation services' business is serious and large-scale: it involves supervision of over 185,000 offenders, including society's most dangerous, difficult and damaged individuals.

A reorganised probation service with national direction, local administration and better integrated with the other criminal justice services like the police and the courts will be of immeasurable public benefit. The significance of bringing forward legislation cannot be underestimated in terms of reducing crime and meeting the Home Secretary's wish for greater public confidence in a more coherent criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF DOBSON,
Chair, Association of
Chief Officers of Probation,
4th Floor,
8-9 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7SH.
April 16.

Digital TV

From the Chief Executive of the Granada Group, and others

Sir, We read with concern Ray Snoddy's column in Media Times (April 16), where he states that Sir John Birt is leaning toward the option of a higher licence fee for digital television as a means of giving the BBC extra funds. As the Chairman of the BBC Funding Review Panel, Gavyn Davies, has himself argued, this would represent a substantial disincentive to the take-up of digital television.

The Government and the industry have been working to facilitate the introduction of digital television services to the advantage of viewers, broadcasters, programme producers and the electronic manufacturing and retailing industries alike. As a result, the UK now leads the world in developing digital television.

The introduction of a higher digital television licence fee would threaten the enormous progress which has been made so far. We therefore urge both the BBC Funding Review Panel and the Government to reject this idea, which would hinder the development of digital television and operate against the UK's wider industrial interests.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES ALLEN,
Chief Executive, Granada Group and Chairman, GMTV,
MARK BOOTH,
Chief Executive, BSkyB,
STEVEN CAIN,
Chief Executive, Carlton Communications,
GREG CLARKE,
Chief Executive,
Cable and Wireless Communications,
STEPHEN GRABINER,
Chief Executive, ONdigital,
TONY ILLSLEY,
Chief Executive,
Telewest Communications,
FRANK McGETTIGAN,
Director and General Manager, Channel 4,
MALCOLM WALL,
Chief Executive,
United Broadcasting and Entertainment,
c/o Granada Group,
Stornoway House,
Cleveland Road, SW1A 1GG.
April 19.

'Lost' war memorial

From the Chairman of the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

Sir, I am obviously concerned as to how the Liverpool Institute's Second World War memorial fell into the hands of a second-hand furniture dealer in the city (report and letter, April 20). The memorial was, in fact, not in the building when we acquired it from Liverpool City Council.

My trustees have always been most concerned to ensure that this historic building's mementos are preserved and, indeed, we recently opened a History Corner in the institute. We would be delighted to include this memorial in the building at any time.

I am certain that all the previous scholars (including some of my own family) who graduated from this building, now restored by LIPA from its dilapidated state, are proud that it has already proved such a success with our young students today.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
Chairman,
The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts,
Mount Street, Liverpool L1 9HF.
April 20.

Korea reunion

From Mr Keith M. Taylor

Sir, Your reporter Alan Hamilton writes today of the warm welcome from the people of South Korea for the royal visit. Veterans from all the 22 countries around the world which fought in the Korean War (1950-53) under the UN flag have also received immense hospitality and generosity from the Koreans on their revisit programmes every year.

In July, the British Korean Veterans Association is hosting in London a four-day world reunion which will be the first at which all 22 countries will be represented. It will include a service at St Paul's Cathedral, a parade on Horse Guards and a gala dinner hosted by the Korean Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. All Korean war veterans will be welcome and this will further enhance the excellent relationships at every level with the people of South Korea.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH M. TAYLOR
(Patron and Chairman,
Organising Committee),
British Korean Veterans Association,
38 Spring Street, W2 1JA.
April 19.

EU patron saint

From Mr C. P. Dixon

Sir, Mr James Macdonald is incorrect when he suggests (letter, April 14) that Europe is without a patron saint.

St Benedict was proclaimed patron of Europe — feast day, July 11 — back in the 1960s.

Since the monks of St Benedict were pre-eminent in seeing Europe through the Dark Ages, perhaps we should present a copy of his Rule to every new MEP?

Yours etc,
PETER DIXON,
18 Carlisle Road,
Hampton,
Middlesex TW12 2UL.
dixons@globalnet.co.uk
April 14.

From Mr John Offord

Sir, Perhaps the honour should go to Robert Louis Stevenson. You will recall he crossed Europe with a donkey, and after a suitably prolonged gestation period the EU came into existence.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN OFFORD,
Merton Grounds,
Bicester, Oxfordshire OX6 0NS.
April 15.

From Mr Julian Crispin

Sir, St Crispin, as the patron saint of cobblers, must have a strong claim.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN CRISPIN,
18 Oakcroft Road, SE13 7ED.
April 14.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a *daytime telephone number*. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Bees, pollen and modified crops

From Professor George Smith, FRS

Sir, The Department of the Environment has finally discovered that pollen can travel large distances, and that the main agents for this transmission are bees. What an amazing scientific breakthrough after intensive research (report, April 15).

This clearly came as a great shock to the members of the Government's Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acre), and may be linked to the ending of the appointments of 10 of the 13 members of that committee ("We modify their genes at our peril", Weekend, April 17), which was widely reported last week. It also undermines the whole of the present approach to the isolation of genetically modified crops. How could such an august body have been blind to such an obvious truth for so long?

Yours organically,
GEORGE SMITH,
Trinity College, Oxford OX1 3BH.
April 18.

From Mr Barry Webb

Sir, Had scientists and the Whitehall mandarins had the sense to listen to beekeepers, countrymen or organic growers like myself they would have learnt, long before they embarked on testing GM crops, that bees fly up to three miles from their hives in search of food.

But bees whose operations overlap those whose territory includes the GM crop will also come into contact with genetically modified pollen and carry it on because both sets will be visiting the same plants; so the range of influence is up to at least six miles.

The varroa mite, which has devastated our domesticated honey bees, has leapt in six-mile strides from hive to hive. What makes our scientists think that the same won't have happened to the GM genes?

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, whom you quote (earlier editions), is right to question the motives of large companies in marketing GM foods in Third World countries.

Yours sincerely,
BARRY WEBB,
3 Coed-y-llyn,
Cardiff CF2 6HR.
April 16.

New D-G for the BBC

From Mr Henry Kemp

Sir, Let us hope that Sir Christopher Bland, as Chairman of the BBC Governors, will vigorously pursue his assertion (letter, April 20) that the political impartiality of the Corporation has always been and will continue to be jealously guarded. Cracks have certainly appeared in this policy over recent years and the appointment of a new Director-General would afford an excellent opportunity to redress any imbalance perceived of late.

We are assured that the best man for the job will be given the post. To have appeared publicly to have been fervently supporting any particular political party must throw doubt on a candidate's bias.

To have given a donation of £50,000 to a party of whatever persuasion can hardly be regarded as a serious qualification for such an influential position.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY S. KEMP,
11 Stevens Lane, Rotherfield Peppard,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire RG9 5RG.
April 20.

Church standards

From Mr David Wickens

Sir, I am encouraged by the Advertising Standards Authority's ruling against a church that claimed a disabled man had been cured by the power of Jesus (report, April 12).

This is not because I have any doubt about the evidence of healing and Resurrection in the Bible but because I look forward to similar scrutiny by the ASA of the claims made by political parties in their various manifestos.

May we all look forward to appropriate compensation if they fail to meet their promises?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WICKENS,
18 Ruspers, Burgess Hill,
West Sussex RH15 0EB.
April 12.

Years of training

From Mr Jamie Pearson

Sir, At 48 years old, with a debutante time of 6:37:30 in Sunday's London Marathon, I note in today's report that I had a later arrival — by 5 minutes 54 seconds — than that of 89-year-old Mr Abraham Weintraub.

It may be worth noting that my supporters, having cheered me past the Tower of London, raced to Blackfriars via the Tube . . . only to discover that I had already limped past and had arrived at Temple Station.

Perhaps an unfair comparison, as surely the District Line is older than Mr Weintraub?

Yours faithfully,
JAMIE PEARSON
(Race no. 4269),
40 Choumert Square, SE15 4RE.
April 19.



COURT CIRCULAR

HYATT HOTEL, SEOUL
March 20: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Daewoo Design Forum and met engineers from the Daewoo technical centre in Worthing, UK.

Her Majesty subsequently visited Ani Dream Animation Studio and later, with The Duke of Edinburgh, met Korean and British business leaders at the Hyatt Hotel.

The Queen this afternoon visited Ehwa Women's University, and called at calligraphy, pottery and hanbok shops in Insadong.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a State Dinner given by The President and First Lady at the Blue House.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Daeryung Electronics and Jungsoo Polytechnic College.

His Royal Highness hosted a lunch for Korean and British business leaders at the Hyatt Hotel, and later inspected construction work at the World Cup Football Stadium and the Kayang Bridge, and visited the LG Corporate Institute of Technology.

The Lord Faringdon, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Arrival of President McAleese and welcomed The President of Ireland of behalf of The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 20: Mrs Michael Gordon Lennox has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes at Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 20: The Prince of Wales, as Patron of The Abbeyfield Society, visited the Abbeyfield home at Leominster.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Prince Edward, Chairman, International Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, held a lunch in support of the Gold Millennium Encounter, a joint venture between The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the President's Award - Gaisce, which was attended by President McAleese, President of Ireland, at St James's Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 20: The Princess Royal this evening attended the Military Knights of Windsor Dinner at Windsor Castle.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 20: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Construction Industry Trust for Youth (CITY), this evening attended a piano recital, Drapers' Hall, London.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
April 20: Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Reception for the Royal National Institute for the Blind at St James's Palace.

Birthdays today

The Queen celebrates her 73rd birthday today.
Mrs Angela Barrett, tennis champion, 67; Professor Gerald Benney, goldsmith, 69; Mr I.W. Bruce, director-general, RNIB, 54; Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 83; Mr Laurence Ellis, former Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 67; Ms Cheryl Gillan, MP, Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth Minister, 47; Mr Robin Gourlay, chairman, Anglian Water, 60; Mr J.M. Greenwood, former senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson, 64; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod, 82; Sir Robin Ibbs, former chairman, Lloyds TSB Group, 73; Mr John McCabe, concert pianist, 60; Mrs Christina Maher, founder and director, Plain English Campaign, 61; Dr Halfdan Mahler, former secretary-general, International Planned Parenthood Federation, 76; Sir John Mortimer, QC, barrister and author, 76; Sir Michael Oswald, director, Royal Studs, 65; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 57; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 84; Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire, 74; the Earl of Verulam, 48.

Lecture

Coningsby Club
Mr Peter Lilley, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, delivered the R.A. Butler lecture last night at the Coningsby Club. Mr Jeremy Quin, chairman of the club, presided. The Officers and Committee were the hosts.

Service dinner

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner held last night in *HMS Victory*.

Among those present were:
The Bishop of Portsmouth and Mrs Stevenson, Alderman Sir Richard and Lady Nichols, Sir Robert and Lady Walmsley, the Chairman of the NELC and Mrs Bridgeman, Mr and Mrs Peter Nicholson, Rear-Admiral and Mrs Tony Norman and Mrs Sue Cohu.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Past Master, the Carmen's Company, will attend a dinner at Plaisterers' Hall, 1 London Wall, London EC2.
The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, will attend a charity concert held by the Polish Association of the Order of Malta at the Polish Embassy, 447 Portland Place, London W1, at 7.30.
The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems) will attend the Third International Neonatal Nursing Conference, "Bridging the World", at Harrogate International Centre, North Yorkshire, at 1.20.
For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: www.royal.gov.uk

Dinners

United and Cecil Club
The Hon Francis Maude, MP, was the speaker at a dinner of the United and Cecil Club held last night at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Sir Sydney Chapman, MP. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman, presided and Mrs Elizabeth Peacock also spoke.

Royal Society of Medicine
Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, President of the Royal Society of Medicine, accompanied by Lady Soulsby, received the guests at dinner last night at the society's house after Dame Deirdre Hine had delivered the Jephcott Lecture to the society. Among those present were:
Mr and Mrs Neill Jephcott, Mr R Hine, Sir Richard Sykes, FRS, and Lady Sykes, Sir Gordon Robson, Sir Christopher Booth, Sir David Innes Williams, Sir Donald Harrison, Sir Christopher and Lady Paine and Dame Margaret Seward.

Saints and Sinners Club
The annual dinner of the Saints and Sinners Club was held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Mr John Bromley, chairman, installed Mr Terry Wogan as his successor. Lord Hattersley, Mr Kit Hesketh-Harvey and Mr Richard Sisson also spoke.

Gregory Doran, who will be directing the York mystery plays in 2000, inspects the newly restored "Face of God" window at York Minster. The images in the 550-year-old panels are being used to promote next year's play cycle

School announcements

Birkdale School, Sheffield
Scholarship Awards 1999
Sixth Form
Major Scholarships: Oliver Lomas, Birkdale; Parvathy Vis-Nathan, Central Newcastle High School for Girls.
Exhibitions: James Leeson, Birkdale; Ramandeep Sall, Brantwood School for Girls; Jason Sas, Meadowhead.
Sixth Form Music
Scholarship: Matthew Osborne, Birkdale.
Exhibition: Jason Sas, Meadowhead.
11+ Open Awards
Scholarships: Lee Bradshaw, Sycamore Hall Prep; Antony Aziz, Birkdale; David Nissenbaum, Birkdale; Alex Townsend, Birkdale.
Exhibition: Simon Everett, Rudston Prep.
11+ Foundation Awards
Major Scholarship: Michael Luo, Nether Green Junior.
Minor Scholarship: Leo Wan, Gorsey Brigg Primary.

Brentwood School
Trinity Term begins today. The Choral Society will sing Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* at Brentwood Cathedral on May 8. The CCF Open Evening will take place on May 14 in the presence of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, J.H.M. Norris, CBE, DL (OB). Half Term is from May 28 to June 7. The first Summer Art Exhibition in the new Art Design and Technology Centre opens June 18. The Commemoration Service, Speech Day and Promenade Concert will be held on June 26. The Guest of Honour is the Right Hon Dame Angela Rumbold.

Chigwell School
Summer Term begins today and finishes on Wednesday, July 7. Speech Day is to be held on Saturday, July 3, 2.30pm onwards. The Guest of Honour is to be Her Majesty's Ambassador to Norway, Richard Dales (Old Chigwellian). This is followed in the evening by the Summer Ball. The 1st XI Cricket Captain is Head Boy, Sudip Samanta, and the annual match between the School and the MCC will be played on Wednesday, June 23, starting at 11.30am. 1st XI will also take part in the Magdalen College School, Oxford Cricket Festival held between Sunday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 13. The School Athletic Sports Day takes place on Saturday, June 26. Musical events include the Scholars Concert on Thursday, April 29, at 7.30pm. The hosting of the prestigious Independent Association of Preparatory Schools Music Festival on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, 9.00am to 5.00pm. The Junior School Concert at St Barnabas Church, Woodford Green, on Tuesday, June 22, at 7.30pm and the Outdoor Summer Concert on Tuesday, July 6, in the School's Chapel Quad at 7.30pm. The Sixth Form Play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf* will be performed on Wednesday and Thursday, May 26 and 27, in New Hall. The Craft, Design and Technology Centre's First "Show" opens from Monday, May 17.

Eton College
Eton College opens today for the Summer Half.

P.N. Morley-Fletcher KS continues as Captain of School and C.P.W Fielding OS as Captain of the Oppidans.

There will be four performances of *The Rivals* in the Farrer Theatre from May 27-30. The CCF Tattoo will be on June 1, and the Fourth of June celebrations will be held on Wednesday, June 2. Long Leave is from June 2-6. The Winchester Match will be at Winchester on June 12, the Harrow Match at Lord's on Tuesday, June 29.
School closes on July 2.

Holmewood House, Langton Green
A history of Holmewood House, Langton Green, Kent, *The First Fifty Years*, is now available from the School Office. Telephone 01892 860000.

St Catherine's School, Bramley
Summer term begins today at St Catherine's School, Bramley. Clare Clinton continues in office as Head Girl, and Charlotte Edmond as her Deputy. The School Concert will be held on Friday, May 14, at St Catherine's. The Service of *Confirmation* will take place at Bramley Parish Church on May 15. Leavers' Communion is on May 16 in St Catherine's Chapel. Long Leave is from May 29-June 6. Activities week is June 28-July 2, when Upper 3 will visit Le Touquet. Upper 4 will spend the week in Wales, and Lower V will visit France, Spain or Germany. Lower 4 will have their Industry week, and for Lower 6 it will be Pre-University week. Sir Robert Clarke will be the Guest of Honour at Speech Day at 10.00am on Saturday, July 3, in Guildford Civic Hall, followed by Open Day at St Catherine's. Term ends on Thursday, July 8. Girls taking part in the Boarders' Watersports holiday will leave for France on Saturday, July 10.

Woldingham School
Summer Term at Woldingham School begins today. Christina Mavroleon is the new Head Girl and Eleanor Beecraft and Sophie Carruth are the Deputy Head Girls. The new Millennium Centre is being opened by the Right Hon Chris Patten, CH, on May 5. The Prize Day guest is Sir Brian Fall, GCVO, KCMG, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Term ends on July 3.

BIRTHS: Jan van Riebeck, naval surgeon, founder of Cape Town, Culemborg, The Netherlands, 1619; Friedrich Froebel, educator, Overweissbach, Germany, 1782; Reginald Heber, bishop and hymn writer, Malpas, Cheshire, 1783; Charlotte Brontë, writer, Thornton, Yorkshire, 1816; Sir Herbert Barker, manipulative surgeon, Southport, 1869; Henry de Montherlant, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1896.

DEATHS: St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109, Canterbury, 1109;

Anniversaries

Peter Abelard, theologian, Chalon-sur-Saone, 1142; King Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509, Richmond, Surrey, 1509; Jean Racine, dramatist, Paris, 1699; Mark Twain, writer, Redding, Connecticut, 1910; Manfred von Richthofen (the Red Baron), German air ace, shot down, 1918; Eleanora Duse, actress, Pittsburgh, 1924; Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate 1913-30, Chilswell, Kent, 1930; John Maynard Keynes, Baron Keynes, economist, Firle, West Sussex, 1946; Sir Stafford Cripps, statesman, Zurich, 1952; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate 1947, Edinburgh, 1965. François Duvalier, President of Haiti 1957-71, Port-au-Prince, 1971.

The Texans defeated Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, 1836.

The City of Rome was founded by Romulus, 753 BC.

Brasilia was inaugurated as the new capital of Brazil, 1960.

Chinese students poured into Tiananmen Square, Beijing, ignoring warnings of severe punishment, 1989.

Asian Business Breakfast Club

Ms Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Pakistan, was the guest speaker at the Asian Business Breakfast Club's meeting at the House of Commons on Friday, April 16, 1999. Mr Sarosh Zaiwalla, Co-Convenor of the Club, welcomed the guests and presided at the meeting. The event was hosted by Mr Tony Baldry, MP, and Mr Martin Wenban proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the sponsors, London Electricity. Lord Clinton-Davis and Mr Alastair Dacre Lacy, OBE, also spoke.
Among those present were:
The Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Mongolia and Turkey, the Deputy High Commissioner for India, the Commercial Attaches of Iran and Pakistan, Sir Anwar Pervez, the Hon Michael Beloff, QC, Mr Desmond Lynam, Mr H D Habib, Mr Karan Billimoria, Mr Yong S Lee and Mr Raj Loomba.

Derek Nimmo

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Derek Nimmo will be held on Thursday, May 27, at St Paul's, Covent Garden, at noon.

Dr Anne Spoerry

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Dr Anne Spoerry, MD, DTM, will be held at 3pm at St Mary's Church, Bourne Street, London SW1 on Tuesday, June 8, 1999, and afterwards at her school, Francis Holland, Graham Terrace, London SW1. Enquiries to David Lowes, 0171 382 8767.

Nick Taylor

A memorial service for Nick Taylor will be held at Eton College Chapel on Monday, May 17, at 2.15pm. All who knew him are most welcome.

Mr Paul Mellon, KBE

A memorial service for Paul Mellon, Honorary Fellow of Clare College, will be held on Saturday, May 8, at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge at 3.00pm. All enquiries to Clare College 01223 333218.

David Shirley

A memorial service for David Andrew Shirley will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Tuesday, May 25, 1999, at 5.00pm.

Church news

The Rev Robin Griffith-Jones, Chaplain of Lincoln College, Oxford, has been appointed to the Mastership of the Temple in succession to Canon Joseph Robinson who resigned last year.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Bailey
and Miss E.O. Casey
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr Adrian Bailey and Lady Ravensdale, of London, and Emily, daughter of Mr Peter R. Casey III and Ms Eve O. Casey, of Toledo, USA.

Captain A.W. Clarke
and Miss S.J. Straker
The engagement is announced between Captain Adam Clarke, The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot), younger son of Major Tom Clarke, retd, and Mrs Clarke, of Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, and Sally, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Straker, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr E.H.T. Cotterell
and Miss L.T.E. Garnett
The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Cotterell, of Reigate, Surrey, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Garnett, of Putney, London.

Mr T.J. Dobson
and Señorita M.C. Pinillos
The marriage will take place in June 1999, in Lima, between Timothy, son of Colonel and Mrs John Dobson, of Flitcham, Norfolk and Carolina, only daughter of Lic Armando Pinillos Hoyle, of Trujillo, and Señora Maria Barrenechea de Winder, of Lima, Peru.

Mr M.S. Gray
and Miss R.L.A. Ward
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Martin Gray, of Kenardington, Kent, and Rosie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Ward, of Leatherhead, Surrey.

Mr H.W. Jackson
and Miss S-K. Cottam
Mr and Mrs David Cottam, of Hong Kong, announce the engagement of their daughter, Sadie, to Hugo, son of Mrs Sarah Jackson, of Co Tipperary and the late Mr Peter Jackson.

Mr A.A.G. Mee
and Miss I.C. Zeki
The engagement is announced between Adrian, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Mee, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Isabelle, daughter of Professor and Mrs Semir Zeki, of London, and Layrac, France.

Mr A.C.P. Noble
and Miss P.I. Cowe
The engagement is announced between Caspar, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Noble, of West Kirby, Wirral, and Pamela, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cowe, of Berwick upon Tweed.

Mr N.S. Parker
and Miss V.H.L. Brown
The engagement is announced between Sam, son of Dr and Mrs David Parker, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Mr Robert Brown, of Shelfield, Warwickshire, and Mrs Angela Brown, of Darlingscott, Warwickshire.

Mr P.G. Simmonds
and Miss R.L. Mussell
The engagement is announced between Peter George, son of Mr and Mrs E. Simmonds, of Kingston Vale, SW15, and Rebecca Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Mussell, of Worcester Park, Surrey.

Mr D.K. Spilsbury
and Miss S.J.L. Etheridge
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Spilsbury, of Higher Bebington, Wirral, and Samantha, elder daughter of Mr Norman Etheridge, of Alresford, Hampshire, and Mrs Sandra Etheridge, of Alresford, Hampshire and also Rheindalen, Germany.

Mr W.H.C. Timmis
and Miss D.L. Miller
The engagement is announced between Cameron, son of Mr and Mrs William Timmis, of Kew, Surrey, and Diane, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. Donald Miller, of Jeannette, Pennsylvania, USA.

Marriage

Mr J.L. Hampel
and Miss A.L. Chow
The marriage took place on Friday, April 16, at St Teresa's, Beaconsfield, of Mr Johnnie Hampel and Miss Alison Chow. Father John Udris officiated. Mr Nick Lyle was best man.

A reception was held at Heatherden Hall, Pinewood Studios and the honeymoon is being spent in Africa.

HM Forces

Royal Navy
Captain J.M. Burnell-Nugent to be promoted Rear-Admiral and to be Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff in succession to Rear-Admiral J. Band on December 6. This appointment carries with it membership of the Admiralty Board of the Defence Council.

Rear-Admiral R.J. Lippiett to be Chief of Staff to Commander Allied Forces Southern Europe and Senior British Officer Southern Region in succession to Vice-Admiral D.A.J. Blackburn on October 11.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Mr Basil Butler, CBE, FEng, Senior Vice President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at a Lecture and Dinner held last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. The guest speaker was Dr Joel Birnbaum, FEng, Chief Scientist, Hewlett-Packard Company, who spoke on "After the Internet".

Latest wills

Sir George Stanley Waller, a Lord Justice of Appeal 1976-84, left estate valued at £318,077 net. Among other bequests he left £15,000 to the Gray's Inn Scholarships Trust.
Sir Harry Craufurd Tuzo, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe 1976-78, left estate valued at £179,862 net.

University news

Manchester
Appointments to Chairs
W. Gwyndaf Prys Williams, Reader in Urban Planning and Development, to be Professor of Urban Planning and Development in the Department of Planning and Landscape, from January 1, 1999.
Stephen Ross Williams, Reader in Biophysics at the Institute of Child Health, London University, to be Professor of Imaging Science (in the Medical School) from April 1, 1999.
Grant of title
Anne Elizabeth Rogers to be Professorial Research Fellow, with the designation of Professor of Sociology of Health Care, from March 1, 1999, for so long as she shall continue to hold her appointment in the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre.
Reader
Igor Rivin, at present Research Fellow in Mathematics at Warwick University, to be Reader in Mathematics from January 1, 1999.
The Council has made the following appointments:
Andreas Christmann to be Lecturer in Contemporary Islam in the Department of Religions and Theology and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, from January 1, 1999.
Susan Karen Crosthwaite, Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences from December 1, 1998.
Laszlo Czaban, Lecturer in International Management and Organisational Analysis in the Manchester Business Schoool, from January 1.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The LORD God has told us what is right and what he demands: "See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God." Micah 6.8 (CEV).

BIRTHS

ABI ANTUN - On 20th April 1999 at St George's Hospital, Beirut, to Denise (née Abi Khalil) and William, a daughter, Chloe, a sister for William Jr.

ANDERSON - To Thomas and Samantha on 14th April, in Oxford, a daughter.

BAKER - On 16th April 1999 to Maria (née Lawrence) and Alastair, a daughter, Jessica Lucy.

BIRCH - On Monday 19th April, to Beverley (née Wilkinson) and Gary, a daughter, Millie Emma, a sister for Ellie Nicole.

BURNHAM - On April 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Jan-Marie and Steven, a daughter, Francesca Ann.

de SOISSONS PAGE - On April 10th, to Mary Enna and Jonathan, a daughter.

DUDLEY - On 14th April to Annabel (née Knight) and John, a beautiful daughter, Eleanor Rose.

DYMOND - On the 17th April 1999 at St. Michaels Hospital Bristol, to Tracy (née Pearse) and Tim, a daughter, Emma Louise.

EDWARDS - On April 9th at Kingston Hospital, to Caroline (née Evans) and David, a brave and beautiful son, Benjamin David, a brother for James.

GOATER - Max William Birdwood born 8th April 1999. A perfect son for Elaine (née Williams) and Mark and brother for a very excited Thomas.

HOLBOROW - On April 18th, to Louise (née Powell) and Crispin, a son, William, a brother for George.

HORROCKS - On 8th April 1999, to Anna and Jonathan, a daughter, Maria, a sister for James and Tom.

MITCHELL - On April 17th 1999, to Eleanor (née Grose) and Desmond, a daughter, Madeleine Cosima, a sister for Oliver, Jolyon and Edmund.

ORMEROD - On April 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Helen (née Davies) and Simon, a daughter, Lily Eloise, a sister for Isabelle.

PARAVICINI - On April 19th to Lucia and Charles, a daughter, Charlotte.

SERENA-DOKUBO - On March 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Ine and Serena David, a daughter, Davine Ayebakariegbe Doris.

STRACHAN - On 13th April, to Ian and Annamaria (née Gracias), a son, Thomas John Becket, a brother to Alexander.

THOMSON - On April 14th to Caroline (née Farmer) and Richard, a daughter, Alice Mary.

DEATHS

AVISON - At the QEII Hospital Welwyn Garden City on 20th April Doctor Anthony Avison aged 78 years. Funeral to be held at The Free Church, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. on Friday 23rd April at 10 am followed by private cremation. Enquiries to Geo W Blow, Church Street, Welwyn, Herts. tel: 01438 714686.

BYERS - Valery (née Kunstadt), widow of Quentin Garden RAFVR and beloved wife of Doctor Paul Byers, on April 18th 1999. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium April 26th 3 pm.

DEATHS

COBBAN - James Macdonald Kt CBE TD DL MA JP on 19th April at Tyndale Nursing Home aged 88. Cremation private. Service of interment at Trent Church, near Yeovil on Monday 26th April at 3.30pm for family and local friends. There will be a memorial service later in Abingdon. Donations instead of flowers in aid of St Helen's Church, Abingdon and all correspondence to be sent c/o David Rivett F/D 30 Lyde Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5AT Tel: 01935 433737.

COLLIER - Of cancer on 18th April at Leckhampton Court, Cheltenham. David Collier, beloved husband of Elizabeth, dearly loved father of Mark, Jake and Luke and loving grandfather of Jack, Sam and Tom. He was a shining example and inspiration to all that knew and loved him. Private cremation on 22nd April at Cheltenham 12 noon. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at a later date. Family flowers only, donations in his memory if wished to Sue Ryder Homes, Leckhampton Court, Cheltenham GL51 5XX, tel: (01242) 230199.

CUNLIFFE - Alan W died 17th April 1999 aged 85 years. Funeral Service at the West London Crematorium on Friday 23rd April at 4.00pm.

DALGLEISH - James (Jim), dearly loved father, brother, grandfather and friend, died suddenly on 13th April 1999. Funeral will take place on Friday 23rd April, 2.15 pm at South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth. Family flowers only, donations, if desired for Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society (GRBS) c/o Holmes & Daughters, 161 High Street, Teddington, Middlesex. Enquiries (0181) 977-9532.

DIXON - On April 16th 1999 at The Nuffield Hospital Exeter after a short illness. Margaret Joan of Exmouth, former College of Education Lecturer, at Battersea College of Domestic Science, London. Much loved Companion and friend of Evelyn Carter. She will be sadly missed by her many friends and former students. Funeral Service Exeter & Devon Crematorium Friday April 23rd at 12.30 pm.

EDWARDES JONES - Mary, peacefully on 17th April 1999. Wife of the late George Edwardes Jones and Mother of John and Patricia. Funeral Service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Wadhurst on Tuesday 27th April at 11.30 am.

EGAN - On 18th April suddenly but peacefully, Desmond Francis aged 58 years. Sadly missed by his family, relatives and all his many friends. Funeral Service to take place on Wednesday 28th April, 1999 at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London, SW3 at 12 noon followed by interment at Mortlake Cemetery at 2 pm. All flowers and enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 74 Rochester Row, London, SW1P 1JU. Tel: 0171 834 4624.

FENN - Ernest Anthony Robin (Tony) on Friday 16th April aged 71. Beloved husband of Jackie and father of Martin and Sarah. Late of P.R. Directorate, Ministry of Defence. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service on Friday 7th May at 2.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Nether Wallop, Hants. Donations, if desired, to The St Andrew's, Nether Wallop Church Building Trust.

GAMMAGE - Gertrude Elizabeth (Betty), widow of Edward (Ted), died peacefully at home in her 90th year on 15th April at West Wickham, Kent. The cremation is to be held at Beckenham Crematorium, 11.30am on April 28th. Gertrude will be sadly missed by her granddaughters and her great-granddaughters.

HALL - (Dublin and Cornwall) April 8th 1999 suddenly at home Richard Jocelyn (Joss) late of Portobello College, Dublin. Beloved father of Amanda and Richard. Very deeply regretted by his loving family and friends. Funeral was 13th April Glasnevin Crematorium Chapel. Donations (if desired) to the Iveagh Trust, c/o Fanagans Funeral Directors, 54 Aungier Street, Dublin 2.

HOPKIRK - G. Howard, 1920 to 1999. Born in U.K., died in S.A., 13th April 1999. Dearest Dad, always known as the Grand Gentleman, loving husband, father, Hopkirk Family Member, grandfather and great servant of the Lord Jesus, is sadly missed by all. Sympathies to all the Hopkirk Families around the world. Dad, we will always miss you. Keith and Theresa (S.A.).

MELFORD - Michael Austin aged 82 peacefully on Sunday 18th April. Dearly loved husband of Lorna, father of Juliet and Ursula, grandfather of Emily, Duncan (died at 10 days) and Freddie. Private cremation. All welcome to Memorial Service at St James's Church, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. at 2.30 pm on Friday 7th May. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Age Concern or The Down's Syndrome Association c/o Arnold Funeral Service, 38 Oak End Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8BR, (01753) 891892.

DEATHS

METCALFE - Rachel Mary on April 16th 1999 at Eastbourne District General Hospital. Widow of Lieutenant Commander H.W. (Dick) Metcalfe who died on active service on June 22nd 1943. Greatly loved mother of Nicholas and Christopher and grandmother of Piers, Isabelle, Alison and Oliver. Funeral at Dallington Church, East Sussex on Friday April 23rd at 10.30am. Family flowers only. Donations to R.N.L.I. c/o Serenity Funeral Directors, 43 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4UT, tel: (01323) 736446 to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

NETHERCOT - Gerald. Aged 89. Passed peacefully 16th April Nottingham. Biog http://visitweb.com/ Gerald Nethercot Contact daughter: 0181 940 9723.

SHOGA - Yinka died 17th April aged 48. Cremated Mountset Wednesday 21st. Dear daughter of Fabian and Pamela, sister of Yemi and Folake, mother of Ebun and Ora. Deeply mourned.

STRUTT - On Saturday 17th April 1999 suddenly at home surrounded by family, Joan, dearly loved and loving mother of Jane and Anne, dearly loved grandmother of Tom, Ollie, Alex, William and Lizzie. Funeral Service St Katherine's Church, Teversal, Saturday 24th April 1999 at 12 noon, followed by burial in churchyard. Any further information contact Ivan Bramley Funeral Directors, (01623) 624918.

STUBBINGS - Dr. Herbert George M.A. Ph.D. D.Sc. died peacefully after a short illness on 18th April aged 86 years. Cremation at Truro Crematorium at 12.20 pm on Monday 26th April. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to "The Development Fund St Catharine's College Cambridge" c/o Eric Tonkin Funeral Director, Mullion, near Helston, Cornwall, (01326 231202).

WARRELL - H.J. (Fred) suddenly at home on Saturday 17th April, beloved husband of Marion. Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers. Funeral Service at West Herts Crematorium on Tuesday 27th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

WOODHEAD - John Derrick F.C.I.B. Ex United Bank of Africa died 16th April. Beloved husband of Jean and much loved father of Felicity, Susan, Caroline, Sally and stepfather of David. Funeral Service at St James Church, Nayland on Wednesday 28th April at 1.45 pm. Family flowers only please.

YATES - Ruth on 19th April peacefully in hospital after a short illness. Beloved wife of the late Frank Yates CBE F.R.S. and much loved by her family and friends. Funeral service will be held at the West Herts Crematorium on Monday 26th April 1999 at 2.40 pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to the National Trust c/o Phillips Funeral Service, 68 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3BL. 01727 851006.

YOUNG - On 16th April peacefully in her sleep Janet Dorothy, dear wife of the late Douglas Newbery, Surgeon Commander RN (killed in the sinking of HMS Repulse in 1941) and for fifty happy years the much loved wife of Commander Rex Young RN who died in January 1996. A devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. A Thanksgiving Service for her life will be held at 3pm on Friday April 23rd at St. Bartholomew's Church, Barbon. No flowers but donations in lieu to the Carr Gomm Society (supported housing for vulnerable people) gratefully received c/o J.J. Martin Funeral Directors, Sedbergh, Cumbria, tel: (01539) 625334.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HODSON - A Memorial Service will be held for Henry Vincent Hodson, in St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, at 11:30 on Wednesday 12th May.

SHIRLEY - A Memorial Service for David Andrew Shirley will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Tuesday 25th May 1999 at 5 pm.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

GUILFORD - Edward Francis, Earl of Guilford. Service of Thanksgiving to be held at St Mary in the Castle, Dover on 26th April 1999 at 12 noon. For details please ring (01304) 812300.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

SLAUGHTER - Enid Lillian. Died 21st April 1987. So very dearly loved. So very greatly missed.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

DENNY - Sandy. In loving memory. Gone but never forgotten, 21 years ago today. A Golden Voice. She was indeed a good companion. Love Miranda.

BIRTHDAYS

BRUTON - William Richard David. Happy Birthday double figures. Love Mum and Dad.

HAMBLY Clementine Christina, happy 16th Birthday, to my wonderful daughter, lots of love Mother xxxx.

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FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

DAME KATHLEEN RAVEN

Dame Kathleen Raven, DBE, former Chief Nursing Officer of the United Kingdom, died on April 19 aged 88. She was born on November 9, 1910.

Kathleen Raven was born in the year that Florence Nightingale died, and it is as a nurse and reformer in the Nightingale tradition that she will be remembered. Like the Lady of the Lamp, she had an affectionate nickname: to the doctors she worked with at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London during the war, she was the Pocket Battleship — a reference to her lack of inches and to her fearlessness in pursuing high standards of patient care.

Her achievements as the UK's Chief Nursing Officer from 1958 to 1972, including the introduction of intensive care, can be attributed to the engaging mixture of energy, determination, charm and humour that first buoyed her up in the dark days of war.

An only daughter who was very close to her three brothers, Kathleen Annie Ingram Raven grew up in the Lake District, skating, fishing, playing hockey and winning school prizes. Educated at Ulverston Grammar School and privately, she originally wanted to be an architect, but she began to see nursing as an attractive option when her eldest brother Ronald (later a distinguished surgeon) was studying medicine at Bart's. She too trained there and, like her brother, won a scholarship — in her case, in midwifery.

The medical world was then still remarkably primitive. As late as the 1930s, she was called upon to apply leeches as a cure for pneumonia: a strange operation, she said, calling for all the qualities that a good nurse should possess, "skilful hands, a good head and a stout heart, and imagination to apply these little black creatures to the patient's chest to relieve the congestion of the lungs, without the patient seeing what was happening." The poverty of her patients of those days was startling. As a midwife in 1937, she regularly delivered babies onto newspapers for families in the Caledonian and City Roads.

She said later that it was during the early years of the war, as a young ward sister at Bart's, that she "learnt to deal with sorrow and death and how to 'manage' grieving, heartbroken relatives, sometimes their families wiped out and their homes razed to the ground." On one awful night, when 7,000 Londoners were killed and a further 9,000 were injured, Bart's itself was hit and Raven was blown across the casualty ward by a blast that shattered all the windows. It never entered her head, she said, that she might be killed. "We were all so busy looking after the casualties that we did not have much time to think about ourselves." For two years, her bed was an air mattress on the first floor of the ward block.

Raven left Bart's to become matron at the General Infirmary, Leeds, in 1949, where in the early years of the NHS she introduced many improvements, notably establishing an assistant nurse training school. She also instituted "beaux parlours," places where nurses could meet their men friends, which she based on American examples observed in 1953 during a 13-week tour to study nursing methods in the United States, Canada and South America. If this led to an increase in nurses leaving the profession on marriage, at least nurse recruitment was never a major problem at Leeds while Raven was at the helm — her stirring visits to local schools saw to that. She was a member of the General Nursing Council of England and Wales from 1950 to 1957.



Kathleen Raven as Chief Nursing Officer in 1959. She was instrumental in introducing intensive care to British hospitals

She was appointed Deputy Chief Nursing Officer at the Ministry of Health in 1957, and promoted to the top job in British nursing within a year. She retained this post for more than 14 years, working with a succession of ministers of varying political persuasions. She was instrumental in setting up the Salmon committee on the structure of the nursing management. She set up a Hospital Planning Unit and instituted studies on the training of health visitors and on the ratio of patients to nurses.

Her visits to hospitals in the United States led directly to the introduction of intensive care units in Britain in 1961. She had admired the American hospitals' policy of Progressive Patient Care, which segregated patients according to their needs, and she campaigned strongly for its adoption in Britain. "It had become abundantly clear to me, and to others, that we could no longer sustain having 15 or 20 patients needing this care scattered in 15 different places over a large hospital," she said.

Two years after joining the Ministry of Health, she married Professor John Thornton Ingram, who created the Dermatological Department at Leeds before accepting the first chair in dermatology at Newcastle. "Nurses and doctors must always work together," she said, "sometimes, as the best doctors will admit, the nurse leading the doctor, even at times leading him to the altar."

Nurse training was always among Raven's preoccupations and she was unhappy with a system that had created two classes of nurse, the state-registered nurse, who could train and make her way up the career ladder, and the state-enrolled nurse, who could not. Disenchanted state-enrolled nurses were leaving the profession. So in 1970 Raven persuaded the Health Secretary, Richard Crossman, to set up what became known as the Briggs committee on nurse training, chaired by Professor Asa Briggs (later Lord Briggs).

The Briggs report, published in 1972, recommended a new career structure, with state-enrolled nurses on the first tier but able to train for the second tier and beyond. Raven was enthusiastic about this, but 1972 was the year of her retirement, and it was one of the great disappointments of her life that the recommendations were not implemented.

A more personal sadness came when her husband died just six months after her retirement. But Raven, who was appointed DBE in 1968, remained active. She became a vice-president of the Royal College of Nursing in 1972, and was also a Civil Service commissioner. From 1972 to 1986 she was part of a team setting up hospitals in the Middle East, staffed and managed on traditional British lines. In 1986, she received the Freedom of the City of London.

Raven lamented the end, in 1988, of nurses' on-ward apprenticeships and the greater concentration on academic training. She feared that computers, rather than patients, were increasingly the focus of attention, and that clipboards, not the sick, were being clasped to the bosom. "Have we forgotten the magic of touch or the importance of a nurse's hands?" she asked. "The new system is not working. Young enthusiastic nurses, anxious to nurse in its fullest sense, must be taught the emotional part of nursing by example and feel, by experience."

So strongly did she feel that, in 1997, at the age of 86, she endowed the Kathleen Raven Chair in Clinical Nursing at the University of Leeds, with the aim of restoring to the profession the old-fashioned system of teaching by example, alongside patients. Dr Claire Hale took up the chair in September 1998, and shortly afterwards Raven brought together a group of distinguished nursing and medical people to look afresh into the subject of nurse training. Sadly she was able to attend only one meeting before going into hospital herself.

A lively hostess who thought nothing of cooking lunch for 40, Kathleen Raven was a lively character, but always dignified. Painting was a great hobby, along with friendship. Last year, aged 88, she hand wrote 250 Christmas cards.

She had no children.

ADOLFO BIOY CASARES

Adolfo Bioy Casares, Argentine writer, died in Buenos Aires on March 8 aged 84. He was born on September 15, 1914.

THE death of Adolfo Bioy Casares brings to a close the extraordinary period of literary renewal in Argentina that began in the 1940s. He will no doubt be remembered, somewhat unfairly, as the close friend and collaborator of Jorge Luis Borges, with whom he conducted the ceaseless intellectual conversation that shaped their mutual oeuvre.

Together, and with help from Bioy Casares's wife, Silvina Ocampo, they edited the *Antología de Literatura Fantástica*, (1940, *The Book of Fantasy* 1988), which began a trend for mixing fiction and reality, and was a marked influence on the somewhat misnamed "magic realism" of Julio Cortazar and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

But their association went beyond this. The two were passionate readers of detective novels, and together — under the pseudonym H. Bustos



Domecq — they wrote baroque short stories about an armchair detective capable of solving mysteries from an isolation prison cell. Their composite name was to become visible as a trademark among modern Latin American fabulists such as Alcina Lubitch Domecq.

Borges inserted Bioy Casares as a character in his famous story *Tlon, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius*. It is he, according to Borges, who uttered the famous sentence: "Mirrors and copulation are abominable, because they increase the number of men." It was a tribute, of course, and also a misrepresentation, for Bioy Casares was well known for his passion for women. In a later interview, he said that when sex is performed out of love it is beautiful, but so is it when love is absent.

In turn, Bioy Casares paid homage to Borges in a variety of ways. His reminiscence appears in *The Oxford Book of Latin American Essays* (1998). But Borges's brightness resulted in the overshadowing of Bioy Casares's talents. He was a prolific, endearing writer in his own right, responsible for classics such as the 1940 novel *La invencion de Morel* (tr. *The Invention of Morel* in 1961), a book inspired by H.G. Wells's *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Born in 1914, Bioy Casares came from a well-to-do family. He began his literary career at the age of eleven with a novel called *Iris y Margarita*. But later on he disclaimed this and all his adolescent experiments, describing them as too flaccid. In his youth he studied law and then switched to philosophy. Apparently it was Borges, whom he met in 1935, who persuaded him to move on to literature, where he found his true calling. His most famous works include *Diario de la Guerra del Cerdo* (1969, tr. *Diary of the War of the Pig*, 1972), *Sueno de los Heroes* (1954, tr. *Dream of the Hero*, 1987) and *Aventuras de un photograto en Le Plata* (1989, tr. *Adventures of a Photographer in La Plata*, 1991).

His favourite themes were love and what Borges called games with time. But Bioy Casares infused them with irony and an existential mood that is reminiscent of Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre.

He married Silvina Ocampo in 1944. She was the sister of Victoria Ocampo, famous as the matron of Argentine letters and editor of the magazine *Sur*.

She died in 1993. They had a single daughter, who died in a road accident before her mother. Bioy Casares was awarded the Cervantes Prize, the most prestigious literary award in the Hispanic world, in 1990.

NORMAN WILLIAMS

Norman Williams, lawyer and philatelist, died on April 9 aged 85. He was born in London on March 25, 1914.

THE NAME Norman Williams was a byword for thoroughness and accuracy in the two fields where he made his mark, philately and the law, in a working life which continued well into his ninth decade.

Leon Norman Williams was 20 when he first contributed on stamps to philatelic journals and the daily press. In those days he wrote jointly with his elder brother, Maurice, and together they wrote thousands of articles and more than thirty books, as well as editing journals, lecturing and broadcasting on radio and television.

Their first book was *The Propaganda Forgeries: A History and Description of the Austrian, Bavarian and German Stamps Counterfeited by Order of the British Government During the Great War*, published in 1938, and its successors included *Famous Stamps* (1940), *The Postage Stamp* (1956) — a Penguin book which was translated into several languages including Japanese and Russian, and *Rare Stamps* (1967).

But the work for which Williams will be best remembered is *Fundamentals of Philately*, the most comprehensive yet written about stamp design and production, which is recognised as the classic in its field. The book began as a series of articles in *The American Philatelist* in 1954; these were collected together in 1971, and a revised edition appeared in 1990.

His final work was the *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps*, dedicated to his brother, who died in 1976, and published in two parts in 1993 and 1997. It detailed the history and ownership of such famous stamps as the Post Office Mauritius, the Hawaii Missionaries and the Cape of Good Hope triangulars.

Norman Williams's work in philately was recognised with many honours: he was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London; an honorary life member of the National Philatelic Society; a founder member and vice-chairman of the Philatelic Writers' Society; and a founder member and president of the Cinderella Stamp Club, which deals with stamps and labels outside the mainstream of those issued by national post offices. It was the study and pursuit of information about these "cinderellas" that gave him the greatest challenge and the greatest pleasure.

He was a life member of the American Philatelic Society, which presented him with the John N. Luff Award for outstanding services to philately. He also received awards at philatelic exhibitions throughout the world.

While Maurice Williams had worked full time in philately, Norman Williamswas called to the Bar *in absentia* in 1943 during his war service in West Africa with the Royal Artillery, when he rose to the rank of captain. After the war he practised in the chambers of J. E. S. Simon, QC (later Lord Simon of Glaisdale) but early in the 1960s he switched to law reporting, and became a fixture in Court 4, the Lord Chief Justice's Court, at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand.





Williams: well-known to both philatelists and lawyers

There he sat, just to one side of the gangway, listening and writing, a subtle frown or gesture sometimes querying the words delivered from the Bench.

He had joined the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting in 1962, and began to contribute to the Law Reports in *The Times*. He went on to work under five Chief Justices — the Lords Parker, Widgery, Lane, Taylor and Bingham — the first of whom encouraged him to launch the Road Traffic Reports in 1970. Williams was particularly touched when Lord Lane returned to sit amid a panoply of judges as Lord Bingham delivered a rare valediction on Williams's retirement in 1997.

Of the many cases that he had reported, one stood out: the libel action brought by Dr Wladislaw Dering against Leon Uris, the author of *Exodus*, in 1964. The case, which commanded national and international attention, concerned Nazi brutalities in the concentration camp at Auschwitz, and the daily law reports in *The Times* by Williams and a fellow reporter, Mavis Hill, often ran to two full columns. The reports were adapted into the book *Auschwitz in England*, with a foreword by Lord Denning, and until recently *Dering v Uris* was the only war crimes trial in Britain.

Williams was a devoted family man, proud of his Jewish heritage, and a keen follower of sport. A useful athlete and club cricketer in his younger days, he was tickled by his appearance on the front page of *The Times* in June 1996 with his wife, Denise, sitting in the pavilion at Lord's on the first occasion that women were permitted to view play from those seats.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1943, and two sons, one of whom is also associated with *The Times*, as a senior member of the sports department.

ON THIS DAY

April 21, 1914

These observations about cars might seem a long way off. Manufacturers today give motorists a huge choice and pamper them with every modern convenience, but are they closer to producing the ideal car?

FAULTS IN MODERN MOTOR-CARS

To the ordinary motorist and motor-car owner no car is ever wholly satisfactory. The machine he owns or those of his acquaintances may suit their purposes admirably and be in every way desirable possessions, but the motor-car has not yet been made which could not, in the opinion of the average owner, be largely improved.

No engine, gear-box, and back axle were ever a completely successful trio, and in every chassis sold there are details which, in the opinion of its owner, stand in need of immediate revision. He does not like the position of the accelerator pedal; the handbrake lever is not within comfortable reach; the car sways uncomfortably at a certain speed, or the foot-brake is inclined to be fierce and in its action to react disastrously upon the tires.

The list of complaints might be multiplied to the nth degree. Most of them may be trivial in themselves, but in the aggregate they assume proportions large enough to set the motorist who cares for motoring (as distinct from the mere owning of a motor-car) to designing in his mind the precise kind of car he would like. It is a fascinating exercise and, unlike most of such pleasant day-dreams, it is not wholly useless. We cannot hope to get our impeccable car for many years, if we ever get it — and it is very open to doubt whether we should like this mythical vehicle if it came into our hands; it would very likely bore us terribly with itf perfections — but anybody who owns a modern car now can make out a fairly comprehensive list of its faults and of the details he would alter in the ideal car.

Without straining that ideal too far and at the same time bringing his suggestions into the pale of possibility, the modest owner might well arrange in his desired chassis for a large number of modifications from the everyday practice of motor design.

Motor-car manufacturers are in some ways the least progressive and most conservative of men. Provided a part does its work and does not give trouble it is reduplicated year after year in succeeding chassis with scarcely the smallest alteration. Its faults remain with its virtues, and in reviewing the lesser details of the most modern cars one is reminded of the historic reply of Levassor to a well-justified criticism of his gear-box — "C'est brutale, mais ça marche". Many things in the best designed of motor-cars to-day serve their purpose but in a very uncouth manner . . .

PERSONAL COLUMN

PUBLIC NOTICES

MANCHESTER UNITY LIFE INSURANCE COLLECTING SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of this Society will be held in The Dun Theatre, Fort Regent Centre, St. Helier, Jersey on Monday, 17 May 1999 at 5.30pm.

AGENDA
Notice convening the Meeting
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1998
Report of Committee of Management
Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report 1998
Appointment of Auditors
Appointment of Secretary
Appointment of Trustees
Re-appointment of Arbitrators
Any other business of which notice has been given

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATUTORY DEMAND TO HARDIP MADAHAR FORMERLY OF 105 GOLDTHORN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON, WEST MIDLANDS WV2 4PV

TAKE NOTICE that a Statutory Demand has been issued by
Name of Creditor: Thomas B Ramsden & Co (Bradford) Ltd
Address: Netherfield Road, Guiseley, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS20 9PD
The Creditor demands payment of £21,899.06, continuing interest and costs, the amount now due on a Judgment of the High Court of Justice, Queens Bench Division, Wakefield District Registry, dated 10 December 1997.
The Statutory Demand is an important document and it is deemed to have been served on you on the date of the first appearance of this advertisement. You must deal with this demand within 21 days of the service upon you or you could be made bankrupt and your property and goods taken away from you. If you are in any doubt as to your position, you should seek advice immediately from a solicitor or your nearest Citizens' Advice Bureau.
The Statutory Demand can be obtained or is available for inspection and collection from:
Name: Mr N A Castle, The Beaumont Partnership
Address: 67 Westgate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 1BP
Solicitor for the Creditor
Tel No: 01924 291234
Reference: NAC/JMT/R021090-323
You have only 21 days from the date of the first appearance of this advertisement before the creditor may present a bankruptcy petition.

NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF SENDJBRAKA SHEIKET ORHAN (IN BANKRUPTCY)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 11.2(1A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that it is my intention to declare a first and final dividend to unsecured non-preferential creditors of the above named debtor. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 19 May 1999 to send their proof of debt to the undersigned John Parry Richards of Deloitte & Touche, Stonecutter Court, 1 Stonecutter Street, London EC4A 4TR, the trustee of the debtor and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the trustee to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend. The dividend will be declared within 4 months of 19 May 1999.
Date 15 April 1999
J P Richards
Trustee in Bankruptcy

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF TINSUM LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985, SECTION 175

The above-named company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of redeeming 3,320,000 of its own issued redeemable preference shares of £0.77 each. The amount of the permissible capital payment of the shares in question is £2,539,774.79 and the date of the resolution for payment out of capital was 15th April 1999. The statutory declaration of the Directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") are available for inspection at the Company's registered office. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting the payment.
By Order of the Board
S J Mouse
Secretary
Dated 15th April 1999
Registered Office: Emerald Place
Emerald Way
Stone Business Park
Stone
Staffordshire
ST16 0SR

REVOLUTION ENVIRONMENTS LIMITED

Registered number: 03005330. Former Company Name: Revolution Interiors Limited. Trading Name(s): Revolution Environments Limited Revolution Interiors Limited. Nature of Business: Interior Design Consultants. Trade classification: 38. Date of appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 12 April 1999. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): Midland Bank Plc. David Harry Gilbert & Raymond Hocking/Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder no(s): 2376/01&2322/01.
Address
8 Baker Street
London
W1M 1DA

IN THE MATTER OF DESTEM TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 SECTION 175

The above-named company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of redeeming 3,320,000 of its own issued redeemable preference shares of £0.19 each. The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £406,931.87 and the date of the resolution for payment out of capital was 15th April 1999. The statutory declaration of the Directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") are available for inspection at the Company's registered office. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting the payment.
By Order of the Board
S J Mouse
Secretary
Dated 15th April 1999
Registered Office: Emerald Place
Emerald Way
Stone Business Park
Stone
Staffordshire
ST16 0SR

NO. 1442 OF 1999 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF LANE FOX (RESIDENTIAL) LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 31st March 1999 confirming the reduction of share capital and cancellation of share premium account of the above-named Company and the Minutes approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 31st day of March 1999. As a result of the passing of a special resolution expressed to take effect forthwith upon the reduction of capital becoming effective, the capital of the Company now comprises £980,600 divided into 980,600 Ordinary Shares of £1 each of which 222,600 have been issued and are fully paid up and none of the remaining 758,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each have been issued.
K Richards & Co.
Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road
London EC1M 7AD
Solicitors for the above-named Company
Ref: KR

Surprise leaders in the science rankings

Honours are spread widely in the latest league tables, says **John O'Leary**

The eight tables below, covering science and technology, complete the new subject rankings compiled this year. Seven universities head the tables, illustrating the breadth of excellence in the British higher education system. Neither Oxford nor Cambridge tops more than one table, a feat achieved only by Nottingham University.

As with the tables for arts and social sciences, published yesterday, the rankings are produced by combining official teaching and research assessments with average entry qualifications. The teaching quality rating is weighted 2.5, research 1.5 and A-level points one.

Though engineering assessments are now virtually complete, mathematics and some science subjects, including physics, are still to be fully assessed in England.

The seven science and engineering tables published last year have changed little because the teaching and research assessments will not be updated until after the millennium. They do show greater domination by Oxford and Cambridge, although Bath and East Anglia remain leaders in their fields.

Oxford and Cambridge are locked together at the head of the geology table, with top ratings for both teaching and research. Plymouth represents the new universities in the top ten, while Newcastle is the nearest challenger to the ancient universities.

Chemistry sees the same dead heat for top place: Oxford and Cambridge are again the only universities with maximum points for research. Imperial College London and Bristol fill the next positions.

Cambridge heads two other tables, although both are narrow victories. In computing, the top six universities all have excellent ratings for teaching and a five-star grade for research, but Cambridge's unusually high entrance qualifications win the day. Warwick is second and York third. The same applies in geography, where the top four are all rated excellent for teaching and have the best possible score for research. Bristol, Durham and University College London are Cambridge's closest rivals. East Anglia has an even narrower lead in the environmental science table, squeezing out Reading with fractionally better A-level entrance grades. Both have maximum scores for teaching and research.

The two previous engineering tables are also closely contested. Bath remains just ahead of Sheffield because of a five-star research grade, with both universities rated excellent for teaching. Imperial College London is top for chemical engineering for the same reason, although Cambridge achieved the better rating for teaching quality.

● *Warwick University was omitted from Monday's applications table. A 12 per cent increase this year should have put it in fourth place. The decline in applications to King's College London was exaggerated in the compilation of the statistics by admissions officials, and should have been 4.4 per cent.*

CHRIS ISON



Rebecca Holland, award-winning chemistry student from Bristol

IN THE GUIDE TOMORROW

Oxford and Cambridge — what admissions tutors are looking for, and how to choose between colleges

Let the workplace come to the class

Innovative schemes are being devised on and off campus to give real-world experience to students, reports **Hannah Betts**

Last week David Blunkett urged all universities to demand that their students gain work experience ahead of graduation. The proposal is intended to placate employers who have long complained that graduates lack workplace aptitude, from basic communication skills to operating a photocopier.

Students would be wise to heed Mr Blunkett's call. A recent survey by the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick found that half the graduates surveyed reported that relevant work experience was a crucial factor in enabling them to find employment. Sixty per cent of arts and humanities, modern languages and natural sciences graduates attributed problems finding work to lack of practical experience.

Some universities are ahead of Mr Blunkett. Nottingham in effect invites workplaces into the university to encourage the emergence of entrepreneurs. Every year 100 of its science and technology students work in teams to devise business strategies for an imaginary biotechnology project that is raking in the cash. Teaching is provided by people who deal with such companies for a living — business executives, patent lawyers and accountancy firms. Marks are awarded by a team of assessors from inside and outside the university.

Professor John Peberdy came up with the idea for the course in 1991. "I realised there was a gap between science as we taught it at university and how it becomes real in terms of products in the marketplace," he explains. "We aim to enhance students' employability — teaching them to be resourceful, self-reliant, innovative and imaginative."

Other universities send their students out into the working world. De Montfort University's business studies course has been arranging 12-month industrial placements for undergraduates for more than 20 years, which generates heavy demand from canny sixth-formers. At any one time, 150 students are out on placement, earning, on average, between £7,000 and £10,000. So successful is the scheme that companies such as Marks & Spencer have integrated De Montfort's sandwich year within their own strategies of graduate recruitment.

Penny Robb, the placement officer, says: "Before they go off, the students are pretty green around the gills. By the time they return, they have matured."

The Department for Education and Employment is also sponsoring projects at selected universities around England. The North East Work Experience Project is the responsibility of Newcastle and Northumbria universities. Manchester and UMIST run the Work Experience Bank. Business Bridge is a scheme shared between Liverpool's universities, while a project called Improving the Quality of Work Experience in Higher Education finds its home at the University of Wolverhampton. The universities of Plymouth and Exeter have conspired to produce the Jewels scheme, which provides advice on everything from sandwich courses to burger bar jobs.

Even if students are not fortunate enough to be able to benefit from one of these schemes, there are other routes they can follow.

The Shell Technology Enterprise Programme (Step) is open to second-year undergraduates at every university. The scheme was started 12 years ago and 1,500 students now pass through its programme of eight weeks with a small to medium-size enterprise every year. Pay is £130 a week, tax-free.

Twenty-one-year-old Rebecca Holland is a chemistry finalist at Bristol who won last year's award for Step's most enterprising student.

Ms Holland had previously spent vacations working in a shoe shop, but she decided last summer to do something more demanding. The Step programme took her to Shipley Europe Ltd, where she discovered that there was a cheaper, more environmentally sensitive alternative to using chromic acid for plating metal into plastic, which will lead to savings of up to £30,000 for the company.

"One of the best things about working was that people respected your point of view," she said. "At university you're never in a position to know as much as your tutors. But in the workplace, you may know more than the company does. One graduate can make a real impact, which does amazing things for your confidence."

Ninety per cent of Step students find employment soon after graduating. Ms Holland is no exception and will join Nestlé's very competitive graduate programme after her finals.

"I was so much more confident in my approach to gaining employment," she recalls. "I was no longer in awe of workplaces." When interviewers asked her to give an example of a situation in which she had improved the cost-effectiveness of a company, she was able to give an answer that far outstripped the usual "when I ran the college sports team" responses.

Ms Holland would recommend the Step scheme and others like it to all students — particularly because she found it enjoyable. "I needed to earn money over the summer," she said, "and I wanted to increase my employability. But I had no idea how much fun it would turn out to be."

● Working Out? Graduates' early experiences of the labour market, *by Kate Purcell, Jane Pitcher and Clare Simm, price £40, is available from the Higher Education Careers Services Unit, Prospects House, Booth St East, Manchester M13 9EP. Step hotline 01623-469 030*; or www.shell-step.org.uk

EIGHT NEW SUBJECT TABLES FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

■ Competition was intense for the leading places. Eight universities had five-star ratings for research, and they did not include Imperial College London, the only institution to win maximum points for teaching quality. Oxford's all-round performance, with the highest entry qualifications, the maximum score for research and 23 out of 24 for teaching, won the day. Cambridge was only a fraction behind.

The ranking is dominated by the traditional universities, with only Sheffield Hallam, London Guildhall and Manchester Metropolitan making the top 20 from the former polytechnics. The subject has not been assessed in Scotland, but Swansea carries the flag for Wales in fifth place.

Assessors found that employment prospects were "excellent", although drop-out rates were high in some universities. The main problem they identified was the recruitment of well-qualified applicants. Only five universities' entrants had the equivalent of three Cs at A level. Teaching standards and the general quality of classroom activities were considered high.

1 Oxford	95.83
2 Cambridge	94.79
3 Imperial	93.35
4 Sheffield	84.47
5 Swansea	80.71
6 Liverpool	80.00
7 Manchester	77.78
8 UMIST	75.35
9 Birmingham	74.44
10 Nottingham	72.12
11 Loughborough	69.92
12 Bath	69.54
13 Surrey	69.16
14 Exeter	67.66
15 Queen Mary Coll	65.28
16 Leeds	64.47
17 Sheffield Hallam	62.22
18 London Guildhall	59.30
19 Manchester Metro	59.05
20 Brunel	56.19

BUILDING

■ Reading may come out top of the overall league table for building degrees, but seventh-place Kingston scores most for the quality of its teaching with a perfect 24. Plymouth and Oxford Brookes also did well, achieving scores of 23.

But it is Reading and Salford that carry off the honours for research with maximum grades of a 5* each. Loughborough, UCL and Heriot-Watt follow on 5.

Most undergraduate building programmes are accredited, usually by a chartered professional body. The majority of these courses recruit white male students, despite efforts to increase applications from less well-represented groups.

1 Reading	86.46
2 Ulster	78.93
3 Loughborough	76.47
4 UCL	74.64
5 Westminster	73.91
6 UMIST	73.23
7 Kingston	66.72
8 Salford	66.58
9 Oxford Brookes	65.66
10 Heriot-Watt	64.84
11 Nottingham Trent	58.83
12 Northumbria	56.91
13 Liverpool JMU	56.68
14 Plymouth	55.62
15 Coventry	55.17
16 Greenwich	54.16
17 Luton	54.12
18 Hertfordshire	53.90
19 Liverpool	53.50
20 Teesside	53.44

FOOD SCIENCE

■ Nottingham is a comfortable winner in the first ranking of food science, which contains only a dozen universities. Three quarters of the institutions offering the subject are former polytechnics, but the table is dominated by four traditional universities.

Only two universities reached the top of the research assessment ladder, and Nottingham entered far more academics than Leeds, the other five-star performer. Nottingham's entrants averaged a modest 15 points at A level (fewer than two Cs and a D), but its 23 points out of 24 were top for teaching quality.

Successful students' job prospects are good, according to the overview published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

1 Nottingham	95.40
2 Reading	84.58
3 Leeds	75.93
4 Queens Belfast	71.21
5 Oxford Brookes	64.03
6 North London	55.21
7 Huddersfield	50.23
8 Teesside	46.80
9 Bournemouth	46.65
10 Lincs & Hum'side	46.17
11 Manchester Metro	42.54
12 South Bank	41.21

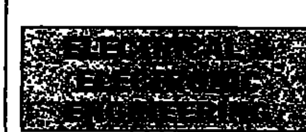
CIVIL ENGINEERING

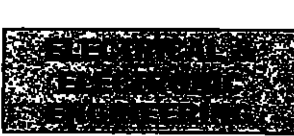
■ Points for teaching quality were hard won in civil engineering. While three universities reached the top rank of the last research assessment, 22 out of 24 was the most that was awarded for teaching in England and no Scottish university was rated excellent.

Only Cardiff and Swansea reached the top grade for teaching. Swansea also had a five-star research rating, but low entry grades relegated it to sixth, while Cardiff has to settle for fourth.

Bristol's all-round performance secured top place, with Imperial College London, another of the five-star research departments, second. Newcastle was the other top-rated research university, but its teaching and A-level scores pulled it down to eleventh. Greenwich is the only new university to feature in the top 20.

1 Bristol	93.13
2 Imperial	90.91
3 UCL	90.69
4 Cardiff	89.84
5 Nottingham	89.11
6 Swansea	85.51
7 Bath	84.94
8 Sheffield	80.94
9 Queens Belfast	79.96
10 Edinburgh	79.65
11 Newcastle	79.11
12 Liverpool	78.82
13 Surrey	78.66
14 UMIST	77.97
15 Loughborough	76.42
16 Heriot-Watt	74.38
17 Birmingham	72.31
18 Dundee	71.96
19 Greenwich	71.28
20 Southampton	71.24





■ Though not one of the two universities with perfect teaching quality grades, Imperial College's high entrance scores and top rating for research secured top place in this specialised engineering field.

The ranking includes some universities that chose to have their mechanical engineering degrees assessed in this category, but Imperial's four-year MSc courses are mainly aeronautical. Second-placed Bath has aeronautical, manufacturing and mechanical engineering degrees. Nottingham, third, and Kingston, fifteenth, are the two top-rated universities for teaching quality.

Aston University is yet to be inspected and Scottish universities do not have a separate teaching assessment for the subjects. But the overview for England reported a 95 per cent completion rate, with most graduates securing relevant employment. However, the assessors found that a "significant proportion" of entrants need extra mathematics coaching to cope with their course. They also saw scope for more industrial involvement in many programmes.

1 Imperial	88.44
2 Bath	87.69
3 Nottingham	86.41
4 UMIST	83.59
5 Loughborough	82.07
6 UCL	80.12
7 Bristol	79.21
8 Southampton	78.59
9 Cardiff	75.30
10 Cranfield	75.00
11 Queens Belfast	74.58
12 Liverpool	69.20
13 Manchester	65.45
14 Birmingham	62.15
15 Kingston	60.38
16 Brunel	59.69
17 Central England	55.95
18 London, Kings	55.20
19 Queen Mary Coll	54.33
20 Anglia	54.23

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

■ Sheffield, Southampton and Edinburgh are the star players for Electrical & Electronic Engineering — each achieving perfect scores for teaching and research in what is a highly competitive field.

Imperial, Bristol, York, Birmingham, Queens, Strathclyde, Essex, Cardiff, Heriot-Watt and Hull all gain maximum results for their teaching. UCL and Surrey excel in research.

Across the board, standards are high, with none of the 20 universities that offer the course falling below an overall score of 70 and the top seven each achieving more than 90.

Disturbingly, completion rates are a problem on several courses, in some cases falling to 40 per cent. Many of the assessors' reports express concern at relatively high failure rates in the first two years of undergraduate programmes — a statistic that they attribute to difficulties in acquiring the requisite mathematical skills.

However, of those who do stay the course, six months after graduation about 80 per cent have entered employment or embarked on further studies and employers express a high level of satisfaction with the skills of graduates.

1 Sheffield	98.08
2 Southampton	96.18
3 Edinburgh	91.47
4 UCL	91.44
5 Imperial	91.18
6 Bristol	91.09
7 Surrey	90.83
8 York	87.16
9 Birmingham	85.75
10 Queens Belfast	85.71
11 Strathclyde	80.76
12 Essex	79.27
13 Cardiff	78.29
14 Nottingham	77.77
15 Leeds	76.79
16 UMIST	76.12
17 Heriot-Watt	75.98
18 Hull	75.79
19 Loughborough	75.47
20 Kings Coll	72.50

GENERAL ENGINEERING

■ Less than half an A-level point separates Oxford and Cambridge at the head of the general engineering table. Both achieved near-perfect teaching quality ratings and the maximum score for research.

The two ancient universities had the only top-rated research departments, but third-placed Imperial College London and Southampton, in fifth, matched them for teaching quality. Liverpool John Moores is the top-placed new university, but Hertfordshire and Central Lancashire also feature in the top 20.

In most universities, general engineering programmes are tailored to the recruitment needs of industry. Though drop-out rates are as high as 40 per cent in some courses, assessors said that most graduates found jobs or took further courses. About a quarter leave with an MEng, rather than a bachelor's degree.

Industrial sponsorship is common, covering more than half of the students in two of the English universities to be assessed. Overall, one student in five is female — a higher proportion than in some other branches of engineering — and there are five applications to every place.

1 Cambridge	100.00
2 Oxford	99.68
3 Imperial	91.18
4 Durham	86.58
5 Southampton	84.36
6 Warwick	76.48
7 Lancaster	75.91
8 Brunel	70.31
9 Ulster	68.59
10 Leicester	68.07
11 Liverpool	65.81
12 Liverpool JMU	65.44
13 Hertfordshire	59.61
14 Exeter	59.51
15 Central Lancashire	57.70
16 Queen Mary Coll	56.95
17 Bradford	54.34
18 Cranfield	53.56
19 Sussex	51.65
20 Aberdeen	48.70

AGRICULTURE

■ No universities scored maximum points for teaching or research in agriculture and forestry. But Nottingham came close in both cases, taking it well clear of its rivals.

Teaching in the area is yet to be assessed in Scotland, and it is possible that Edinburgh will take top place when it is. Its students have the best entry qualifications in Britain and it is almost the equal of Nottingham for research.

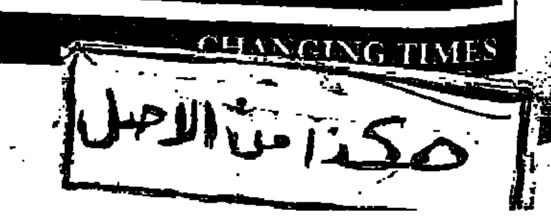
For now, however, Edinburgh has to settle for third place behind Newcastle. Plymouth registered the best teaching assessment of the new universities, but a disastrous research grade left the university trailing both Bournemouth and Lincolnshire & Humberside.

Assessors in England found room for improvement in teaching in all but two of the universities and colleges they inspected. The area includes subjects such as floristry, horse studies and even golf-course management, as well as the traditional degrees in agriculture and forestry. Most courses offer work placements, and employment prospects for graduates are good.

1 Nottingham	92.98
2 Newcastle	85.54
3 Edinburgh	83.82
4 Aberdeen	77.30
5 Reading	76.81
6 Cranfield	74.64
7 Leeds	70.21
8 Queens Belfast	66.25
9 Lincs & Hum'side	65.52
10 Bournemouth	63.85
11 Plymouth	58.25
12 Bangor	54.83
13 Aberystwyth	45.19
14 De Montfort	40.88

Fieldwork: students from the University of East Anglia, rated top of *The Times* table for environmental science

CHANGING TIMES



Queen's Bench Divisional Court — Law Report April 21 1999 — Court of Appeal

Refusal to quash prosecution lawful

Regina v Director of Public Prosecutions, Ex parte Duckenfield and Another
Regina v South Yorkshire Police Authority and Another, Ex parte Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and Others

Before Lord Justice Laws, Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham

[Judgment March 31]

The decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions not to exercise his power to take over a private prosecution against two police officers in order to discontinue it was not unlawful.

A police authority's powers were not limited to those specifically conferred upon it, since it was empowered to do anything which reasonably supported the general function conferred by section 6(1) of the Police Act 1996, namely to "secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for its area".

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, when:

1 Dismissing in part applications by David Godfrey Duckenfield and Bernard Dean Murray, retired police officers, for judicial review of the decision of the DPP, in a letter of December 18, 1998, not to take over private prosecutions commenced against them by Ann Adlington, solicitor, for the purposes of discontinuing those proceedings.

2 Allowing applications by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and the two applicants for judicial review of the decision of the South Yorkshire Police Authority on February 5, 1999 that it had no legal power to provide financial assistance to the former officers in respect of the costs and expenses of defending the private prosecutions or bringing judicial review proceedings against the DPP.

Mr Duckenfield and Mr Murray were senior police officers on duty at Hillsborough Football Ground on April 15, 1989 when 96 people were killed as a result of overcrowding. In 1990 and 1997 the DPP decided that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute any of the police officers involved in the disaster.

In 1998, anticipating the bringing of private prosecutions against the two officers in respect of their actions on the day of the disaster, the South Yorkshire Police Authority granted their applications for financial assistance to defend the prosecutions.

Private prosecutions were begun against the officers in July 1998, both being charged with manslaughter and wilful neglect to perform a public duty, and Mr Duckenfield alone being charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Both officers made representations to the DPP that he should exercise his power under section 6(2) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 to take over the conduct of the proceedings and then discontinue them under section 23(3) of that Act, but the DPP declined to do so.

Subsequently, in February 1999, the police authority decided that it had no power to provide financial assistance to the officers for the purposes of defending the private prosecutions or seeking judicial review of the DPP's decision.

Mr Michael Harrison, QC and Mr Simon Myerson for the police officers; Mr Philip Havers, QC for the DPP; Mr Alun Jones, QC and Mr James Lewis for Ms Adlington; Mr Nigel Baker, QC and Ms Louise Varty for the chief constable; Ms Presiley Baxendale, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the police authority.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that there were two linked applications: the challenge to the DPP's decision not to take over and discontinue the private prosecutions, and the challenge to the decision of the police authority that it did not have the power to provide legal funding for the officers.

DPP's decision

The reasons for the DPP's decision had been given in a letter which also set out the DPP's policy on discontinuing private prosecutions. Mr Harrison had made six submissions:

1 Since under section 3(2)(b) of the 1985 Act, as amended by section 15 of and paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice Act 1987, it was ordinarily the DPP's duty to institute proceedings in cases of importance or difficulty, the DPP should entertain a heightened concern when considering whether or not to take over a private prosecution of that kind, and lean in favour of discontinuance, which he had not done.

In his Lordship's judgment, the right of private prosecution preserved by section 6(1) was in no way qualified by section 3(2)(b), which had nothing to do with the discretion to take over such a prosecution under section 6(2).

2 It was next submitted, relying on the obiter dicta of Lord Wilberforce and lord Diplock in *Gouriet v Union of Post Office Workers* ([1978] AC 435, 477, 498), that the right of private prosecution operated as a constitutional safeguard in cases of inertia, partiality or improper action by the prosecution, and that where there was nothing of that kind present, the DPP should lean towards intervention to stop the prosecution.

His Lordship pointed out that the obiter dicta in Gouriet were not reflected in the 1985 Act and in his judgment did not provide anything approaching a compulsory template of a lawful policy to be adopted by the DPP in discontinuance cases.

3 The applicants submitted that since the DPP stated in his reasons letter that private prosecutors were not bound to apply the Code for Crown Prosecutors when deciding whether to institute proceedings, the DPP had erroneously proceeded on the basis that the Code was irrelevant to his discretion under sections 6(2) and 23(3).

In his Lordship's judgment it could not be right for the DPP to apply the same tests for discontinuing proceedings as for initiating them, as the consequence would be that the DPP would stop a private prosecution merely on the ground that the case was not one which he would himself proceed with. That would be an emasculation of section 6(1) and itself an unlawful policy.

4 The applicants submitted that the evidential test applied by the DPP, that he would intervene where there was clearly no case to answer, was too rigid.

His Lordship said that the formulation made clear that the DPP only intended to stop private prosecutions on that ground where no reasonable decision maker could conclude that there was sufficient evidence for the case to go forward, which was a perfectly proper approach.

5 It was submitted that the public interest test applied by the DPP was wrong, and should be whether the public interest factors in favour of the private prosecution outweighed those against rather than the other way around.

His Lordship rejected that argument, holding that the policy was perfectly consistent with the objects of the 1985 Act, and that it was strongly arguable that the test contended for by the applicants would place an illegitimate constraint upon the right of private prosecution.

In his Lordship's judgment, the DPP's policy was not unlawful, nor had it been unlawfully applied.

6 Finally, it was argued that the DPP had been wrong to let the charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice against Mr Duckenfield go ahead having found that there was no case to answer on that charge.

The DPP's reason had been that it was only appropriate to intervene in proceedings in their entirety or not at all, and so he had decided against discontinuing that charge while leaving the others.

His Lordship said that it was elementary that in criminal cases each count constituted a separate indictment. The correct articulation of the DPP's "no case" test in a multiple prosecution was that the DPP should consider whether there was clearly no case to answer on each charge.

In deciding that there was no case to answer on that one charge but allowing it to proceed, there had been a breach of Mr Duckenfield's legitimate expectation that the policy would be applied. The DPP's decision would be quashed only in so far as it related to that charge.

Police authority's decision

The challenge turned on the construction of section 6(1) of the Police Act 1996, and section 111(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Mr Baker argued, first, that section 6(1) of itself enabled the funding, and, alternatively, that it was enabled by section 111(1) read with section 6(1).

Ms Baxendale disputed both those arguments.

Against the first, she said that section 6(1) conferred no powers of any kind, but did no more than state the Act's policy and objects. All the powers possessed by police authorities were expressly conferred in the Police Act 1996 and by local government legislation.

Against the second, she submitted that section 111(1) could not enable a police authority to do anything that was not ancillary to a power which was elsewhere conferred upon it, and that since section 6(1) conferred no such power, section 111(1) did not help the authority.

In his Lordship's judgment, Ms Baxendale's argument on section 111(1) was wrong. The scheme of the 1996 Act involved the distribution of responsibilities between the chief constable, the secretary of state, and the police authority.

A consideration of those three interlocking roles led to the conclusion that Parliament could not have intended that the police authority should only be empowered to incur expenditure in support of those duties and ancillary powers specifically conferred upon it.

Section 111(1) must, in that context, allow the police authority to support what its express powers and duties also supported, namely its general function conferred by section 6(1). That was enough to dispose of the case in the applicants' favour.

His Lordship also went on to consider Ms Baxendale's argument on section 6(1). She supported her argument with reference to section 88(4) of the 1996 Act which conferred an express power on police authorities to fund police officers' costs in tort proceedings, but made no mention of funding other kinds of proceedings.

In his Lordship's judgment, section 88(4) was self standing and had no implications for the general reach of a police authority's functions. In his Lordship's view, section 6(1) enabled a police authority to do things which reasonably supported the function conferred by section 6(1).

His Lordship noted that any decision taken under section 111(1) would be subject to the principles of *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* ([1948] 1 KB 223) and *Padfield v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* ([1968] AC 997), but the use of section 111(1) to finance police officers' legal expenses in litigation, including defending private prosecutions brought against them and the bringing of judicial review proceedings by them could not in principle be ruled unlawful on those grounds.

Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham agreed.

Solicitors: Winckworth Sherwood, London and Walker Morris, Leeds; Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters; Ms Ann Adlington, Liverpool: Hammond Suddards, Leeds; Garretts, Leeds.

No power to enforce witness confrontation

Regina v Jones (Derek)
Regina v Nelson (Gary)

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Mr Justice Astill and Mr Justice Gray

[Judgment March 26]

There was no power enabling the police to use reasonable force to make a suspect submit to a confrontation by a witness.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment allowing appeals by Derek Jones and Gary Nelson against their convictions in July 1997 at Bristol Crown Court (Mr Justice Keene and a jury) of murder, attempted murder and violent disorder. Retrials were ordered.

Mr Ian MacDonald, QC, for Jones; Mr Courtney Griffiths for Nelson; Mr Roderick Denyer, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM, delivering the judgment of the court, said that a co-defendant had been convicted of the murder of one man and the attempted murder of another. The appellants were convicted of being concerned in that murder and attempted murder.

The prosecution had arranged for an identity parade to take place some 18 months after the event but the appellants had declined to attend on the ground that an identification made so long after the event would have no value.

The inspector in charge decided that the witness should be confronted with the appellants. Jones objected and put a garment over his head and generally refused to cooperate.

Three police officers then used a degree of physical force to make his face visible, to restrain him and at one point to close his mouth. There was a continuing struggle throughout the confrontation during which the witness looked through a viewing panel. Those events were recorded on video and were not in dispute.

Nelson, who was waiting in a room nearby, had heard the commotion, including shouting by Jones when he was being made to confront the witness. The inspector in charge told Nelson that, if he did not consent to a confrontation quietly, reasonable force would be used to compel him to do so. Nelson then agreed to be confronted and was identified.

It was submitted by counsel on behalf of the appellants that there was a clear breach of Code D of the *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (s.66) Codes of Practice* and that the trial judge should have ruled that evidence of identification in those circumstances was inadmissible.

The judge had accepted a submission that it was permissible for the police to use force to bring about the confrontation to ensure that the process was not frustrated and that the *Codes* permitted it.

Mr Denyer sought to justify the use of force by reference to the 1984 Act and the *Codes* made thereunder; particularly Code D and Annex C thereto which dealt with confrontation.

He also relied on Code C8, Conditions of Detention, where in paragraph C8.9 "Reasonable force may be used if necessary ... (i) to secure compliance with reasonable instructions, including instructions given in pursuance of the provisions of a code of practice..."

He then referred to section 117 of the 1984 Act which provided: "Where any provision of this Act - (a) confers a power on a constable; and (b) does not provide that the power may only be exercised with the consent of some person, other than a police officer, the officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of the power."

In their Lordships' view, section 117 was not to be interpreted as giving a right to exercise force whenever the consent of a suspect to a course of action taken under the Act by a constable was not required.

Code D with its annexes was made under section 66. There was no express or implied power to authorise a constable to use force in the Code.

On the contrary, it was to be presumed that any such power was exclusively contained in section 117.

The mere fact that the secretary of state had included in Code C a requirement that reasonable force might be used to secure conditions of detention did not, in their Lordships' view, authorise the use of force, reasonable or otherwise, to bring about a confrontation.

There had been a breach of the *Codes of Practice* in relation to each appellant. It was impossible to say what impact this identification evidence had on the jury and, accordingly, the appeals would be allowed.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods, Birmingham: Crown Prosecution Service, Bristol.

Facts not decided on appeal

Attorney-General's Reference (No 95 of 1998)
Regina v Highfield

Before Lord Justice Judge, Mr Justice Sachs and Mr Justice Klevan

[Judgment March 8]

Whether a sentence referred to the Court of Appeal by the Attorney-General was unduly lenient was a question which had to be decided not in the light of what was alleged but of what was proved or found to have been established.

The Court of Appeal could not constitute itself as a court of first instance inquiring into facts which had not been pursued or proved in the crown court.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in adjourning an application by the Attorney-General under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 for leave to appeal against a sentence as unduly lenient imposed on Kim Highfield on December 8, 1998, at Chelmsford Crown Court (Judge Rogers) when on a plea of guilty to causing death by dangerous driving she was sentenced to a community service order of 240 hours and disqualified for five years and until she had passed an extended retest.

Mr Neil Moore for the Attorney-General; Miss Lorraine Webb, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the offender.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the present reference as constituted put the court in an impossible position.

Two issues crucial to the sentencing decision (i) whether the offender had consumed alcohol before rather than after the accident took place and (ii) whether the it was the first piece of dangerous driving by the offender that caused the fatal accident or whether it was the culmination of a protracted piece of bad driving, were merely asserted.

By the time the offender pleaded guilty some of those issues had been canvassed, at the trial but when counsel for the prosecution outlined the facts to the judge, nothing was said in his opening to suggest that the driving of the offender was affected by alcohol or indeed that it was the culmination of a prolonged piece of bad driving. The judge concluded that this was an isolated incident of momentary error with the most tragic consequences and he identified as the main aggravating feature that the offender did not stop and help after the accident.

Their Lordships thought that the Attorney-General had to be consulted so that he could decide whether on the basis of the facts which could be proved it would be appropriate to refer or to continue with this reference. The application for leave would, accordingly, be adjourned.

Their Lordships expressed concern that counsel for the offender had provided a fairly detailed analysis of some of the facts that were in issue but the application had not been reconsidered at that time.

It was doubted whether if the present situation recurred the court would be prepared to order an adjournment but rather, on the basis that the case was not sufficiently prepared, would be inclined simply to refuse leave.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Deceased's estate cannot continue race bias claim

Lewisham and Guys Mental Health NHS Trust v Andrews

Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr R. Jackson and Mrs R. A. Vickers

[Judgment March 26]

There was no provision in the Race Relations Act 1976 for an applicant's claim of unlawful discrimination to be continued after his death by his estate.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by Lewisham and Guys Mental Health NHS Trust from a decision of a chairman of an industrial tribunal sitting at London (South) last December appointing the daughter of the deceased applicant, the late Mrs Marcia Andrews, as the appropriate person to proceed with the claim.

The trust, the employers, had appealed on the ground that the industrial tribunal's powers were determined by statute and in the absence of any statutory authority the tribunal had no inherent jurisdiction to allow the claim to proceed.

Mr Andrew Rowland, solicitor, for the trust; Mr John Crosfill, assigned by the Free Representation Unit, for the daughter.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the applicant's complaint of discrimination was received by the industrial tribunal on April 6, 1998 and she died on August 23.

Her family wished to continue with the discrimination complaint. The chairman of the industrial tribunal held that a personal representative could proceed.

The employers submitted on appeal that whereas statutory provisions in section 206 and 207 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, permitted a personal representative of a deceased person to continue a claim or start proceedings for unfair dismissal after his death there was no comparable provision in either the Race Relations Act 1976 or the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

They also submitted that it was a general principle that where a party to legal proceedings died those proceedings abated unless another person could, by virtue of the express terms of a statute or rules of court, take them forward.

They said there was no power conferred on tribunals to substitute the estate for a person making a complaint of unlawful discrimination, and accordingly, the tribunal had no jurisdiction.

The appeal tribunal concluded that section 1(1) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934, provided that causes of action might survive for the benefit of or against the estate of the deceased so as to include rights of action founded on breaches of contractual obligations or for personal injuries to the deceased, including damages for pain and suffering and for loss of expectation of life and also to include rights of action founded on statutory duties or rights.

But in relation to the latter, it was a matter of construing the statute to see whether the rights of action that were conferred by the statute were capable of inuring for the benefit of the estate of the deceased. In principle no right or liability of a purely personal mature could be assigned by operation of law.

Having regard to the legislative background to the proceedings it seemed that Parliament had elected not to provide that a cause of action under the discrimination legislation survived for the benefit of the estate. That was in contrast to the way Parliament had dealt with other rights such as unfair dismissal where specific statutory provisions had been introduced.

There was nothing in the discrimination legislation itself, nor in the Industrial Tribunals Rules of Procedure (SI 1993 No 2687), nor in the Employment Tribunals Act 1996, which enabled or entitled a personal representative to be substituted for a deceased complainant in a complaint of unlawful discrimination.

Those statutory rights which were akin to statutory torts were not, as a matter of construction, capable of devolving on the estate. The tribunal had erred in law and the appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Capsticks, Putney.

Scots Law Report April 21 1999 Inner House

Refusing discharge of psychopath

W (a Patient) v Secretary of State for Scotland

Before the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Cullen), Lord McCluskey and Lord Kirkwood

[Judgment February 16]

Although sexual deviancy alone did not amount to a mental disorder, a person who was suffering from mental disorder, for example because he was a psychopath who persistently engaged in abnormally aggressive and seriously irresponsible conduct, might manifest that conduct in the field of his deviancy, for instance in relation to his sexual contacts with young children.

The Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, refusing an appeal by W, a patient at the State Hospital, Carstairs, against the decision of the Lord Ordinary to refuse his application for judicial review of the sheriff's refusal to grant a discharge under section 64 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984.

Mr Graham Bell, QC and Mr Simon Collins for W; Mr Matthew Clarke, QC and Mr Colin Tyre, QC, for the secretary of state.

LORD McCLUSKEY, delivering the opinion of the court, said that the main issue in the proceedings arose from the fact that the appellant was, and had been since at least 1974, a paedophile.

What had been argued on his behalf was that, although, as a paedophile, he fell to be regarded as a person exhibiting and affected by sexual deviancy within the 1984 Act, there was no other feature of his health or personality to warrant a conclusion that, at the date of the application to the sheriff he was suffering from a mental disorder within the meaning of section 1 of that Act.

It was common ground between the parties that "treated" in the context of section 1(3) was effectively synonymous with "dealt with" and had no reference to medical or therapeutic treatment.

For the petitioner, the main proposition had been couched in the following terms:

The effect of section 1(3) of the 1984 Act, when read with sections 64(1) and 17(1)(a)(i), and in the light of the decision of the House of Lords in *Reid v Secretary of State for Scotland* (1999 SLT 279), was that the sheriff, in an appeal under section 64, was obliged to direct the discharge of a restricted patient whose detention as a psychopath, a person suffering from a persistent disorder manifested only by abnormally aggressive or seriously irresponsible behaviour, was founded on sexual deviancy, paedophilia, alone, or who, once that deviancy had been discounted, did not suffer from a psychopathic disorder which was of a nature or degree making detention appropriate.

The petitioner had referred fully to the legislative history of the provision now found in section 1(3) of the 1984 Act and to article 5 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

He submitted that *Winterwerp v The Netherlands* ([1979] 2 EHRR 387) supported the proposition that article 5 could not be taken to permit the detention of a person simply because his views of lifestyle, characterised by, for example, sexual deviancy or drug dependency, deviated from the norms prevailing in a civilised society.

In their Lordships' view, it was unnecessary to do more than note first that, at least for the purposes of the present proceedings, it was a matter of agreement that "sexual deviancy" in section 1(3) of the Act must be taken to include paedophilia.

Second, there was no room for doubt, from the wording of the provision in section 1(3) itself, that if there was nothing established in relation to a person other than that he was sexually deviant in the sense of the subsection, it was illegitimate to hold that he was suffering from "mental disorder" for the purposes of the Act.

Their Lordships noted, however, that the petitioner had submitted that the court should apply the observation made by Mr Justice Mann J. in *R v Mental Health Review Tribunal, Ex parte Clatworthy* ([1985] 3 All ER 699, 701-2).

The respondent, however, had submitted that a distinction could, and should, be drawn between, on the one hand, sexual deviancy unrelated to mental disorder and, on the other, sexual deviancy which was one manifestation, or even the only manifestation, of an anti-social personality disorder.

He had founded in particular upon the use of the word "only" in section 1(3). He had drawn attention to what had been said by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith in *R v Mental Health Act Commission, Ex parte X* ([1988] 9 BMLR 77, 84-85).

In their Lordships' view it was clear that there might be people disposed to, affected by and exhibiting sexual deviancy, and even engaging in sexually deviant conduct, who could in no sense be regarded as suffering from "mental disorder" within the meaning of the Act.

It was however clear that a person who was suffering from mental disorder might manifest that conduct in the field of his deviancy, for example in relation to his sexual contacts with young children.

The petitioner had argued that it was an error in law for the sheriff not to make a finding as to whether or not he would have satisfied the criteria for detention in terms of section 17(1) of the Act if the index offence had been committed on or shortly before the date of the hearing before him.

Their Lordships were satisfied that it was not necessary for him to make any express finding on what was necessarily a hypothetical situation.

Law Agents: Balfour & Manson, for McKennas, Glenrothes; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Trustees can seek directions

Harding and Others v Joy Manufacturing Holdings Ltd

Before the Lord President (Lord Rodger of Earlsferry), Lord Osborne and Lady Cosgrove

[Judgment January 29]

In the course of carrying out their duties, the trustees of a pension scheme might seek directions from the court on the legal implications of various courses of action they were contemplating, but it was not open to the trustees of a scheme constituted in Scotland to surrender to the court the exercise of a discretion vested in them.

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, giving its opinion in relation to a petition for directions by Mr Peter Harding and others, trustees of Joy Manufacturing Holdings Ltd pension and life assurance scheme.

Mr James McNeill, QC, for the trustees: Mr James Drummond Young, QC, for the respondents.

THE LORD PRESIDENT, delivering the opinion of the court, said that in England, trustees might in certain circumstances surrender their discretion to the court, which could then exercise it in their stead. That had been done, for instance, in *Thrells Ltd (in Liquidation) v Lomas* ([1993] 1 WLR 456).

It had been accepted by the petitioners that it had never been the practice of the Court of Session to accept the surrender to it of a discretion vested in trustees.

Where it became impossible for trustees to exercise a discretion, an appropriate solution had been found, either in the appointment of new trustees, or of a judicial factor: see *Orr Ewing v Orr Ewing's Trustees* ((1884) 11 R 600).

Even if, contrary to the tenor of the authorities, there could ever be circumstances where surrender could be possible, there were sound practical reasons why the court should not exercise the trustees' discretion in this case.

The trust deed provided that at least half of the trustees would he made up of employees or their nominees. The trustees might therefore be expected to have a knowledge and understanding of the company, the scheme and its history which would inform the exercise of the discretion vested in them. Moreover, the histories of events in the present case, and in similar cases to which their Lordships had been referred, showed that, in discharging their duties, pension scheme trustees might require to explore various possible avenues and to negotiate with the company about their proposals.

The court could not take those steps itself, nor would any reporter appointed by the court be likely to take those steps as effectively as the trustees themselves.

Law agents: McGrigor Donald; Bird Semple, WS.

NEWS

Nato committed to moral crusade

■ Tony Blair committed Nato to a moral crusade against President Milosevic, insisting that the bombing would continue until the Yugoslav leader had been forced to "step down".

Later it was made clear that the Prime Minister was not announcing a new Nato objective — the overthrow of Mr Milosevic — but he said the defeat of the Yugoslav leader was a moral imperative. On a visit to Nato headquarters Mr Blair said there would be no deals or compromises........................Pages 1, 4-7

Britain hands over atrocity intelligence

■ Britain is to hand over all the intelligence it has acquired about atrocities in Kosovo to Judge Louise Arbour, prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said it would be the "largest release of intelligence material" authorised by Britain......Page 1

Hatchet buried

Baroness Thatcher sought to end the longest running feud in British politics by publicly lavishing praise on Sir Edward Heath at a dinner in London. The former Prime Ministers have hardly exchanged a word since 1975 when Lady Thatcher succeeded Sir Edward as Tory leader.........Page 1

School shooting

Two men in black trench coats and masks walked into a Washington high school and opened fire indiscriminately. Several children were carried from Columbine High School covered in blood but amid chaotic scenes it was uncertain if anybody had been killed..........................Page 1

Wildlife at risk

Commercial genetically modified crops could ruin wildlife unless there is tight regulation Sir Robert May, the Government's chief scientific adviser, said. They could intensify the dramatic postwar decline in songbirds, insects, wild flowers and hedgerows.....Page 2

Night raiders

Raiding the biscuit tin in the middle of the night is not greed but a symptom of a dangerous illness, Albert Stunkard, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, told a London conference. "Night eating syndrome" should be classified with anorexia nervosa and bulimia.........Page 3

Regional BBC news

The BBC's *Six O'Clock News* is to include regional headlines for the first time in its history to counter claims that it is London-biased and to quell anger over its refusal to grant Scotland its own separate news..Page 8

Allergy tragedy

A woman with an allergy to nuts died after taking a bite from a chip that she had dipped into a restaurant curry. Leann Rickaby, 24, suffered a severe allergic reaction despite rushing to the lavatory to make herself sick. She died on the way to hospital.....Page 13

Thatcher abandoned

William Hague tried to face down a Shadow Cabinet revolt by staking his authority on the abandonment of Thatcherite ideals of reforming the health, education and welfare systems..........Page 16

Early child

The skeleton of a four-year-old child who died 24,500 years ago reveals that Neanderthals and man interbred, says an American palaeontologist..................Page 17

South African crime

The extent to which society in South Africa has become brutalised became clear after the screening by BBC Television's *Newsnight* of a documentary showing police assaulting car-hijacking suspects......................................Page 18

A glimpse of the might of Rome

British and Italian scholars hailed the discovery of eight almost perfectly preserved Ancient Roman ships buried in the mud of what was once the harbour at Pisa as "an astonishing step back into the past" and a "rare insight into Rome as a maritime and trading power". One wooden ship, with an elongated prow, is thought to have had a military purpose..........................Page 11

YUN SUK-BONG Reuters



The Queen autographs a celadon teapot in Seoul yesterday at the start of her four-day visit to South Korea. Page 9

BUSINESS

Crisis over: The International Monetary Fund declared an end to the worst phase of world economic crisis that began almost two years ago in Asia and then spread to Russia and Latin America...............Page 29

Shares dive: Shares took a breathtaking nosedive as dealers followed heavy overnight selling on Wall Street................................Page 29.

Row at the top: France's acquisitive LVMH has gained control of the Chateau d'Yquem vineyard after settling a long legal quarrel with the property's manager, Count Alexandre de Lur Saluces......Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 195.5 to 6319.8. The pound rose 0.44 cents to $1.6161 but fell 0.09p against the euro to 65.94p. The index rose to 104.0 from 103.9.....................Page 32

SPORT

Football: Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke, the strikers who have carried Manchester United to the European Cup semi-final, know they must recapture their best form to take the team past the obstacle of Juventus tonight..............Pages 56, 52

Tennis: Despite winning the first set, Tim Henman contrived to lose to Fernando Meligeni in the Monte Carlo Open.............................Page 54

Rugby union: Leicester and Northampton, the country's leading clubs, are confident that better times are ahead, even though they will make substantial final losses this season.....................Page 50

Simon Barnes: Peter Schmeichel's form this season is even more admirable for his indifferent form at the start of the season.................Page 52

ARTS

Off the wall: Kurt Schwitters, pioneer of European avant-garde art between the wars, ended his life working feverishly on a wall mural for a Cumbrian barn. Now the wall has gone on display................Page 41

Fings revived: A boisterous new production of *Fings Ain't Wot They Used t'Be* pays tribute to the songwriter Lionel Bart, who died this month.......................................Page 42

Saucy Semele: Underwear, nudity, groping: English National Opera's new excursion into Handel is nothing if not diverting...............Page 43

King's goes Russian: Shedding its usual Anglican repertoire, the choir of King's College Cambridge brought an absolutely splendid performance of Rachmaninov's Vespers to London......................Page 43

FEATURES

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Gene generosity: A $45 million project researching DNA building blocks could provide insights into diseases...Page 20

No small matter: Children are the innocent victims of a crumbling relationship and they must come first in any divorce battle..........Page 21

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Building blocks: What is on offer in science and engineering and work experience advice ....Page 26

FOCUS

Pride: The Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement.......Pages 44-47

THE PAPERS

India's divisive ethnic and regional politics have produced one political crisis after another. Now these tensions have caused the collapse of the Hindu nationalist Government. The beneficiary could be the troubled Congress Party, which has governed India for most of the last 15 years — *The New York Times*

TULIP FIELDS by Monet/ Bridgeman Art Gallery

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **BOOKS**

Amanda Craig on Deborah Moggach's *Tulip Fever*; Brian Keenan on the kidnap of Jan Philipp Reemtsma

■ **FILMS**

James Christopher on Joel Schumacher's controversial *8mm*, starring Nicolas Cage

RADIO & TV

Preview: Manchester United's battle to get to the Euopean Cup final (ITV, 7.30) **Review:** All animal life is here — in North London says Joe Joseph of BBC1's new series, *A Life of Grime*..........................Pages 54,55

OPINION

Food for the table

Mr Hague has rightly told the Shadow Cabinet that it must concentrate on the issues that really matter to ordinary voters. The Conservatives should, though, associate themselves with substantial solutions to core problems.....Page 23

Beyond the Balkans

Turkey has swung towards nationalism. There is less to fear from this than meets the eye..............Page 23

Not by sea

The Romans were not natural sailors. Evidence of their power is the straight roads, not shipwrecks. They may have tried to rule the waves but they never loved being on them...............................Page 23

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

There are three Kosovan wars. Nato has lost the first, the second is still being fought, and the third has not properly begun. Since conflict takes a mounting toll on reason, we must struggle to keep these wars distinct...Page 22

ROLAND WATSON

It takes a rare mix of the brilliant and the flawed, the spiky and the exotic to elbow aside the Balkans and demand a leading slot on the war-dominated news agenda. But one Labour politician has it.....Page 22

ALAN COREN

When not travelling by car, for example, Her Majesty is uniquely entitled to stand upstairs on buses. Should she spit, however, she is liable to the same fine as anyone else, although she would, of course, be given time to pay....................Page 22

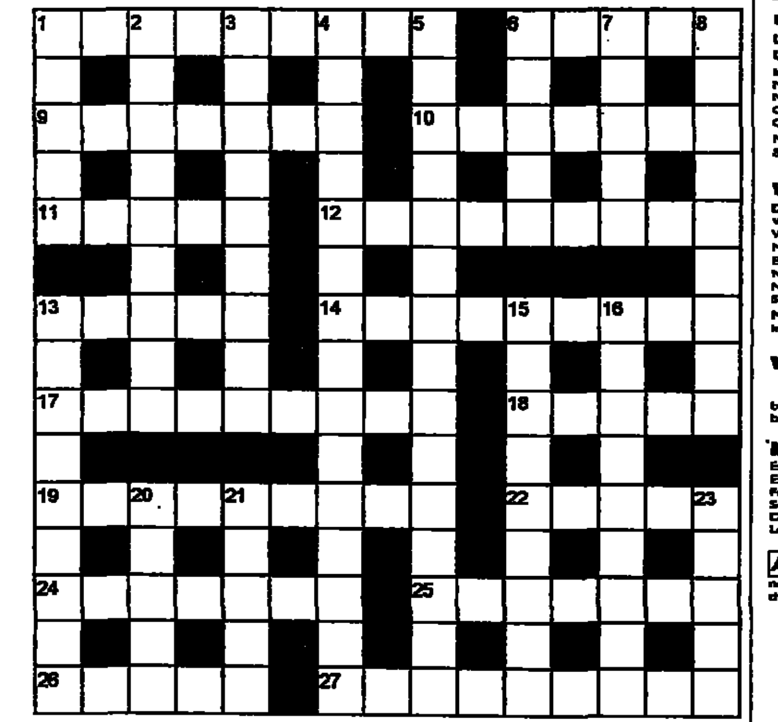
OBITUARIES

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War reporting; prison reform; modified crops; digital TV; BBC; "lost" war memorial..........................Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,083



ACROSS

1 Very late at night louts, having lost out, run wild (4,5).
6 In Latin, this version of the Bible creates confusion (5).
9 Conveyance of art isn't involved (7).
10 Pretentious American with money – a bit of brass (7).
11 Country using old Spanish and German currency (5).
12 Free – anybody enters without charge (9).
13 Stayed only a short time after turning blue (5).
14 Criminal given discharge in the French sense (9).
17 Throw rake out – you need a spade for this (9).
18 It turns to right, or to left, originally (5).
19 Reversing direction in public transport in complex situation (5-4).
22 Surly king's 'orrible temper (5).
24 This roc could become the largest bird (7).
25 Slaver – a coarse person, liberal at heart (7).
26 Arrange to meet – go by road (5).
27 Surround streets in Dover and Calais? Sounds good (5,4).

DOWN

1 Having to sell up, one left afterwards (5).
2 Dodgy sportsman taking up nurses' time and a lot of money (9).
3 International alliance holding up trial (4,5).
4 At home, the singer – catch her with nothing on (2,3,10).
5 If you want to play hockey in America, you'll have to hurry up (3,4,6,2).
6 Mount partly within Germany (5).
7 Pansy, aka Cesario (5).
8 One with little to say is given short shrift (9).
13 Met aboard, possibly? (9).
15 Shocking, say, most of administrative division of America (9).
16 Have superior strength to cause paralysis within target area (9).
20 Unkempt and irritable (5).
21 Manage a group of workers (5).
23 Neglect timeless smithy (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,082

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Times Two Crossword, page 56

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.53 am — Sun sets: 8.06 pm

Moon sets: 1.25 am — Moon rises: 10.12 am

First quarter tomorrow

London 8.06 pm to 5.51 am
Bristol 8.16 pm to 6.01 am
Edinburgh 8.31 pm to 5.52 am
Manchester 8.20 pm to 5.55 am
Penzance 8.25 pm to 6.16 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** mild, unsettled and windy. Sunshine in southeast England and East Anglia, windy, showers later. The rest of England and Wales and N Ireland, limited sun. E Scotland, cloudy with rain. W Scotland brighter but windy. Tonight, windy across the UK, rain in N England, Scotland and N Ireland. Elsewhere clear spells, showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** milder with sunshine but windy with showers likely. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Central S England, Channel Islands, SW England:** very windy, cloud and some heavy showers. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **E, Central N, NE England:** sunny spells, showers likely later. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **W Midlands, S, N Wales, NW England, Lakes, IOM:** cloudy, windy, rain later. A fresh south-west wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** windy, cloudy with rain spreading in. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** cool, windy, cloudy with rain. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** windy, sun, showers. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** wet, windy 7C (45F)

☐ **N Ireland:** limited sun, showers and longer periods of rain. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** overcast, rain or drizzle. Cold. 11C (52F)

☐ **Outlook:** mild Thursday and Friday with sunny spells, best in east, breezy with showers, most frequent in the north and west.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0 7	0 19	5	41	r
Anglesey	-	0 40	13	55	r
Aspatria	1.1	0 05	9	48	r
Aviemore	2 4	0.01	5	41	h
Belfast	2.6	0.27	9	48	r
Birmingham	0.6	0.31	10	50	du
Bognor R	0.5	0.43	11	52	r
Bournemth	-	0.80	11	52	r
Bristol	-	0 50	12	54	r
Buxton	2 1	0.45	8	46	r
Cardiff	-	0.83	12	54	r
Clacton	3 0	0.08	10	50	r
Cleethorpes	2 1	0.24	9	48	r
Cromer	2 8	0 05	10	50	r
Edinburgh	0.9	0.08	7	45	r
Eskdalemuir	1 5	0.27	6	43	r
Exmouth	-	0.87	11	52	r
Fishguard	0 1	0 47	11	52	r
Folkestone	2 2	0 03	10	60	r
Glasgow	0 4	0 25	7	45	r
Guernsey	-	0 79	14	57	r
Hastings	1 9	0.20	11	52	r
Hayling I.	-	0 54	11	52	r
Herne Bay	0.9	0 09	11	52	r
Hunstanton	1.8	0 11	10	50	r
Isle of Man	2 2	0.50	9	48	r
Isle of Wight	-	0 68	11	52	r
Jersey	-	0 57	12	54	r
Kinloss	4 8	0 02	7	45	sh
Leeds	0.2	0.35	9	48	r
Lerwick	11.8	0 01	7	45	sl
Leuchars	-	0 55	6	43	r
Littlehampton	0 7	0 56	11	52	sh
London	0 1	0.20	12	54	r
Lowestoft	1 6	0.01	10	50	r
Manchester	0 8	0.22	11	52	r
Margate	2 1	0 06	11	52	r
Morecambe	-	0 18	10	50	r
Newcastle	0.1	0 23	7	45	r
Newquay	1 2	0 61	13	55	r
Norwich	2.4	0 03	9	48	r
Oxford	0.6	0.32	12	54	r
Penzance	2.6	0 80	14	57	r
Ross on Wye	-	0 45	12	54	r
Saunton Sands	-	0.41	12	54	du
Scarborough	1 5	0 24	7	45	r
Shrewsbury	0.1	0 14	12	54	r
Skegness	-	0.13	9	48	r
Southend	1 7	0 06	11	52	d
Stornoway	7.8	0 01	7	45	b
Swanage	-	0.09	12	54	r
Teignmouth	-	1 15	12	54	r
Tenby	0.1	0 96	12	54	r
Tiree	2.9	0.09	7	45	r
Torquay	-	0.81	13	65	r
Weymouth	-	0.88	11	52	r

Yesterday: highest day temp: Mumbles (Swansea) 15C (59F), lowest day max: Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Dundrennan (Dumfries Galloway) 1 56in, highest sunshine: Lerwick (Shetland) 11.8hrs.

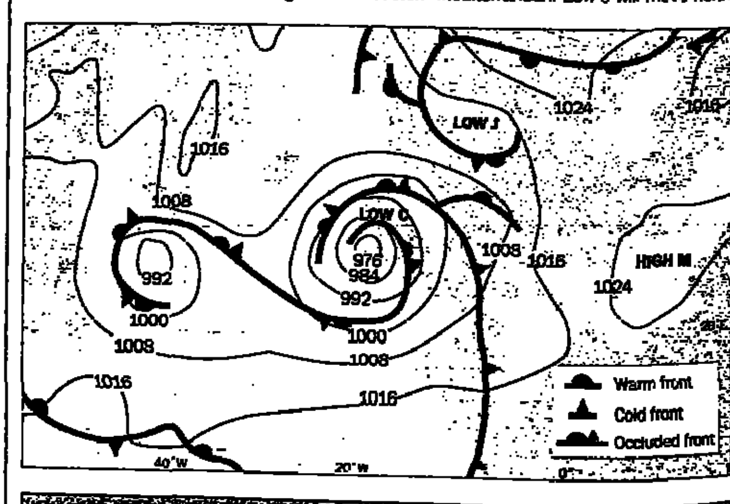
ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	c
Akrotiri	23	73	f
Alex'dria	23	73	s
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	9	48	f
Athens	20	68	s
Bahrain	29	84	s
Bangkok	34	93	f
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	18	64	s
Beijing	13	55	c
Beirut	22	72	t
Belgrade	13	55	s
Berlin	11	52	s
Bermuda	17	63	r
Biarritz	17	63	s
Bordeaux	13	55	c
Brussels	8	46	s
Budapest	12	54	s
B Aires	21	70	f
Cairo	31	88	s
Cape Tn	19	66	f
Chicago	11	52	s
Ch'church	17	63	x
Cologne	6	43	r
C'phagn	6	43	r
Corfu	17	63	f
Dublin	8	46	c
Dubrovnik	13	55	s
Faro	19	66	s
Florence	14	57	f
Frankfurt	7	45	r
Funchal	20	68	s
Geneva	10	50	f
Gibraltar	18	64	s
Helsinki	11	52	s
Hong K	24	75	sh
Innsbruck	8	46	f
Istanbul	17	63	s
Jeddah	35	95	s
Jo'burg	22	72	s
L Palmas	21	70	f
Le Touqt	9	48	f
Lisbon	17	63	s
Locarno	14	57	c
L Angeles	26	79	s
Luxembg	5	41	r
Luxor	41	106	s
Madrid	19	66	s
Majorca	18	64	s
Malaga	18	64	s
Malta	17	63	f
Melbourne	X		
Mexico C	20	68	s
Miami	25	77	s
Milan	16	61	s
Montreal	12	54	s
Moscow	19	66	s
Munich	4	39	r
Nairobi	25	77	t
Naples	16	61	s
N Delhi	37	99	s
N York	14	57	f
Nice	17	63	s
Oslo	7	45	c
Paris	10	50	f
Perth	X		
Prague	9	48	f
Reykjavik	7	45	f
Rhodes	19	66	s
Rio de J	21	70	f
Riyadh	33	91	s
Rome	16	61	s
Salzburg	7	45	c
S Frisco	14	57	s
Santiago	16	61	s
S Paulo	X	X	X
Seoul	25	77	s
Singapore	31	88	f
Stockholm	6	43	c
Strasb'rg	7	45	c
Sydney	25	77	s
Tangier	21	70	s
Tel Aviv	30	86	s
Tenerife	22	72	s
Tokyo	15	59	r
Toronto	10	50	f
Tunis	21	70	t
Valencia	21	70	s
Vanc'ver	8	46	r
Venice	14	57	f
Vienna	11	52	f
Warsaw	5	41	r
Wash'ton	14	57	f
Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Zurich	10	50	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday X = not available

NOON TODAY

Changes to the chart below from noon: low C will move north, filling slowly. High M is expected to remain slow moving over the eastern Mediterranean. Low J will move north



HIGH TIDES

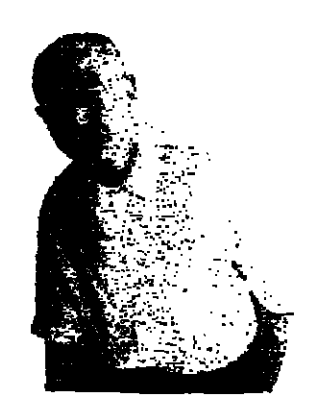
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:51	3.9	17:29	3.9
Avonmouth	10:48	12.2	23:06	11.8
Belfast	2:31	3.4	15:10	3.2
Cardiff	10:34	11.3	22:52	11.0
Devonport	9:34	5.0	21:53	5.0
Dover	2:22	6.5	14:52	6.3
Dublin	3:04	4.0	15:42	3.9
Falmouth	9:05	4.8	21:24	4.8
Greenock	3:46	3.5	16:23	3.3
Harwich	3:09	4.1	15:34	3.8
Holyhead	1:40	5.3	14:15	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	9:48	8.2	22:21	8.1
Ilfracombe	9:38	8.5	21:57	8.3
King's Lynn	9:48	6.4	22:22	6.0
Leith	6:12	5.2	18:46	5.2
Liverpool	2:33	9.0	15:03	8.8
London Bridge	5:17	7.2	17:45	6.7
Lowestoft	0:47	2.5	13:08	2.3
Margate	3:24	4.8	15:51	4.5
Milford Haven	9:55	6.4	22:18	6.2
Newquay	8:51	6.4	21:15	6.2
Oban	9:24	3.3	21:24	3.3
Penzance	8:15	5.1	20:39	5.0
Portland	10:30	1.7	22:38	1.7
Portsmouth	2:44	4.5	15:19	4.4
Shoreham	2:35	6.1	14:57	5.9
Southampton	2:16	4.4	14:49	4.3
Swansea	10:02	11.6	22:26	11.3
Tees	7:22	9.7	19:56	9.7
Walton-On-Naze	3:06	4.2	15:31	3.9

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999



All main economic regions set for growth improvement in 2000

IMF says crisis is over

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY
IN WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund yesterday declared an end to the worst phase of world economic crisis that began almost two years ago in Asia and then spread to Russia and Latin America.

In its authoritative *World Economic Outlook*, published in Washington, the IMF said that all the main regions of the world should enjoy a significant improvement in economic conditions next year and that developing countries in Asia and Latin America would see a significant rebound.

While the IMF expects euroland growth to recover to 2.9 per cent in 2000, it conceded that one of the biggest risks for the world economy in the year ahead was that "the recent weakening of the euro area may turn out not to be transitory in spite of the welcome further reduction in interest rates in April".

Michael Mussa, IMF chief economist, said a further reduction in European interest rates could be appropriate if there were no signs of economic recovery in Europe over the the coming months.

Commenting on the assertion by Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank, that this month's monetary easing would be the last in the present cycle, Mr Mussa said that central bankers should "never say never".

For Britain, the IMF figures show a somewhat slower recovery than the one anticipated by the Treasury and the Bank of England. The IMF expects only 0.7 per cent growth in 1999, compared with the Treasury's 1 to 1.5 per cent forecast. In 2000, the IMF figures show growth of 2.1 per cent, against the Treasury's 2.25 to 2.75 per cent forecast.

But IMF officials said the differences were not statistically significant and emphasised that they had no fundamental disagreement with the Government on Britain's economic outlook.

The officials said that the IMF's lower figures were partly attributable to a recent revision of statistics for 1998 GDP by the Office for National Statistics, which had changed the baselines used for the forecasts. They added that the most recent reduction in British interest rates and the strong revival in business and consumer confidence would probably increase the momentum of recovery in Britain and that the first quarter of this year would almost certainly prove the low point of the current economic cycle.

For the world as a whole, the IMF expects GDP growth to slow marginally this year, from 2.5 per cent in 1998 to 2.3 per cent in 1999. The world economy should then accelerate to 3.4 per cent in 2000.

The US is the only large economy in which the IMF anticipates a slowdown and even there it attaches a much lower probability to earlier fears about a "hard landing" caused by a stock market crash or a balance of payments crisis.

The forecasts for newly industrialised economies in Asia have also been upgraded sharply. Even in Russia there has been a slight upgrading of the economic outlook, although the economy is still expected to shrink by 7 per cent this year and to stagnate in 2000.

The Japanese economy is forecast to shrink by 1.4 per cent this year and to grow by only 0.3 per cent in 2000.

This contrasts starkly with the Japanese Government's official projection of 0.5 per cent growth in the fiscal year 1999-2000.

LINKS
WEBSITE: http://www.imf.org

BUDGET EFFECT ADDS TO THE RATE OF INFLATION

INFLATION veered sharply off target in March but with most of the rise resulting from Budget tax increases, the City remains hopeful of further interest rate cuts (Alasdair Murray writes).

There was also good news for Gordon Brown as he beat his own full-year borrowing forecasts with a £7.4 billion budget surplus, the best performance for a decade. Underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, jumped above the Bank of England's target rate, climbing from 2.4 per cent to 2.7 per cent in March.

The rise, however, had been anticipated by the markets because of the excise duty rises, which added about 0.3 percentage points to the rate of inflation.

The City, which is expecting the Budget effect to drop out of the data in April, was also reassured by a better performance from the other measures of inflation. Headline inflation remained unchanged at 2.1 per cent with falling interest rate payments compensating for the rise in excise duties.

RPIY, which excludes taxes and mortgage interest payments, actually fell from 1.8 per cent to 1.7 per cent due to a decline in seasonal food prices.

Separate data published yesterday supported the soft inflationary trend with engineering sector wage growth continuing to fall steadily. Average pay deals declined from 2.6 per cent to 2.5 per cent in the three months to the end of February.

The Government recorded a full-year public sector net cash requirement surplus of £7.4 billion, compared with a Treasury forecast of £5.2 billion.

The strong performance was helped by a 14 per cent annual rise in income tax receipts helped by the self-assessment tax system. The Treasury also kept a tight rein on spending, which rose by just 3 per cent, suggesting real spending growth of only about 0.5 per cent.

Commentary, page 31

Shares hit by big sales of hi-tech stocks

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market yesterday tumbled 200 points to record its heaviest losses this year as an overnight sell-off of technology stocks on Wall Street spilled over into Europe.

The FTSE 100 index closed down 195.8 at 6319.5, or 3 per cent, having fallen by as much as 235 points at one stage. It was the largest fall since early December last year.

Other European markets were also caught in the firing line with shares in Paris declining by 2.9 per cent. German shares closed down similar amounts with Deutsche Telecom tumbling 4 per cent despite continuing hopes of a merger with Telecom Italia.

The London market was unnerved by the abrupt turnaround on Wall Street during Monday's trading. The Dow Jones Industrial index had been as much as 220 points higher by close in London but later nosedived to close trading 53.4 lower.

The downwards trend continued yesterday with the Dow Jones slipping around 45 points in early trading and offering London little fresh support. The separate Nasdaq index, which has a heavy concentration of technology stocks, also followed its 5.5 per cent dive on Monday with further losses.

Technology stocks took a beating in London with Dixons, which has made strong gains due to the success of its Freeserve Internet service, losing nearly 8.5 per cent.

Traders were divided on whether the fall marked the end of this bull run, or whether investors were just pausing for breath. Some analysts took the markdown in technology shares as a positive sign, setting the stage for more broad market spread gains in the coming weeks.

The pound had a quieter day, gaining around half a cent against the dollar to close at $1.6161. The euro also held firm after hitting a record low on Monday to reach 65.94p.

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Business Today

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NET PROFITS
www.times-money.co.uk

The great divide
North v South dimension to economic policymaking is becoming a staple of political debate
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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6319.5	(-195.5)
Yield	2.16%	
FTSE All Share	2929.26	(-80.99)
Nikkei	16697.11	(+22.90)
New York:		
Dow Jones	10399.30	(-41.23)*
S&P Composite	1300.46	(+10.98)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(4¾%)
Long bond	96*	(96⅛)
Yield	5.53%*	(5.52%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5⅜%	(5⅞%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.48	(117.05)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6145*	(1.6115)
London:		
$	1.6163	(1.6120)
€	1.5167	(1.5189)
SFr	2.4294	(2.4320)
Yen	191.13	(190.31)
£ Index	104.0	(103.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0630*	(1.0680)
SFr	1.5061*	(1.5025)
Yen	118.17*	(117.80)
$ index	108.2	(108.2)

Tokyo close Yen 118.06

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$15.70	($15.75)

GOLD

London close	$284.85	($283.45)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ....Page 30

Arnault raises glass to d'Yquem purchase

BY FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has won his three-year battle for control of the Château d'Yquem vineyard — home to the most expensive wine in the world.

Count Alexandre de Lur-Saluces has given up fighting M Arnault's advances and has sold out to him for £27 million.

LVMH will now own a controlling 64 per cent stake in Château d'Yquem, in a deal that values the Bordeaux vineyard at £100 million.

The takeover saga started when M Arnault stood up the Count at a Tokyo winetasting session in 1996.

When the Count returned to France, he learnt that Eugène, his 77-year-old brother, had agreed to sell his 17 per cent stake to M Arnault — allowing LVMH to mount a £50 million takeover bid.

He tried to sue Eugène, arguing he was mentally unfit to sell his shares and legally forbidden from doing so without family permission. The wrangle has been in French courts until last month, when M Arnault almost doubled his original offer.

The Count, who will continue to run the vineyard, said: "My responsibility is to do all I can to ensure that Yquem remains unchanged. The assurances I have received from Bernard Arnault appear to guarantee the values I hold dear."

He had previously denounced M Arnault as a "corporate shark" and a "charlatan." Château D'Yquem has been run by the Lur-Saluces family for the past 406 years.

Its dessert wine costs between £150 and £8,000 a bottle. It will now join Moët & Chandon, Dom Perignon and Veuve Clicquot in the LVMH drinks stable.

LINKS
WEBSITE:
http://www.chateau-yquem.fr/english
http://www.lvmh.com

Commentary, page 31

FRANCOIS GUILLOT / EPA

Count Alexandre de Lur-Saluces among the vines that produce the famed Chateau d'Yquem dessert wines that sell for between £150 and £8,000 a bottle

Olympics lose J&J funding after scandal

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE Olympics has suffered its first big sponsorship defection since the corruption scandal erupted within International Olympic Committee, the body that runs the games.

Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare group, has abandoned plans for a $30 million (£19 million) deal to back the Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City in 2002.

It is expected to be followed by news that John Hancock, the US insurance group, based in New England, is not going to renew its $50 million sponsorship deal after next year's summer Games in Sydney.

John Hancock — which, unlike Johnson & Johnson, is one of the IOC's 11 core "partners" — has been outspoken in its criticism of how the organisation has been dealing with the corruption scandal and has removed the Olympic symbol from its advertising literature.

Revelations about gifts given by the Salt Lake City organising committee to IOC members are at the heart of the corruption scandal, which has seen ten IOC members resign or be fired.

J&J has been in talks with the US Olympic Organising Committee for some months about Salt Lake City. It sent advisers to the IOC meeting last month when the IOC adopted measures aimed at tackling corruption in the organisation. J&J admitted that the corruption scandal was a factor in its decision against sponsorship.

Michael Payne, the IOC's marketing director, denied that the J&J decision was a big blow. "We talk to potential sponsors all the time and there are a whole series of reasons why deals cannot be concluded," he said.

Corzine looks at LTCM deal

FROM ADAM JONES
IN NEW YORK

JON CORZINE, the co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, may launch a buyout of Long Term Capital Management, the hedge fund whose near-collapse caused global market chaos last year.

Mr Corzine, who is due to leave Goldman after it floats this year, is understood to be sounding out potential backers with the help of John Meriwether, the former Salomon Brothers trader who founded the hedge fund, and other LTCM partners. A source close to the parties said: "It's in a very early stage."

LTCM came close to bankruptcy after Russia's financial crisis hit bond markets last year, savaging LTCM's portfolio. A consortium of 14 banks and brokers, including Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and Barclays, put $3.6 billion into LTCM to keep it afloat, giving it 90 per cent of the fund. The other ten per cent is owned by the original LTCM investors.

Alchemy may be on the Inn Business trail

BY DOMINIC WALSH

ALCHEMY PARTNERS, the venture capital group, is understood to be in talks to acquire Inn Business, the tenanted pub operator, for more than £60 million.

Undeterred by the recent failure of its attempt to buy Vaux Breweries from Swallow Group, Alchemy is also among the bidders for Swallow's tenanted pub estate, which is expected to fetch more than £120 million.

Alchemy's ambitious twin-pronged move is set against a background of a rapidly consolidating tenanted pub sector. To date, Enterprise Inns and Nomura, the Japanese-owned securities house, have led the way, but Jon Moulton, Alchemy's managing partner, who recently acquired Ushers of Trowbridge, is clearly keen to catch up.

His cash offer for Inn Business is believed to be worth between 80p and 90p a share, valuing the company at £64 million to £72 million — or £100 million-plus including borrowings. Last night, the shares closed 3p higher at 71p.

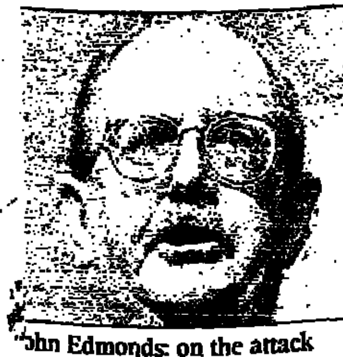
Alan Jackson, the Inn Business chairman, is thought to have contacted Alchemy in the wake of an unsolicited approach in January from Enterprise Inns. Enterprise subsequently withdrew but is expected to return to fray when Alchemy bids.

Including Scorpio Inns, in which it has a 25 per cent stake, Inn Business has a total estate of almost 700 pubs. It recently reported a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.6 million from turnover of £37.6 million. It has a net asset value of 70p.

Neither Alchemy nor Inn Business would comment.

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DTI and Bank attacked by union leaders



John Edmonds: on the attack

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNION LEADERS yesterday rounded on the Government and the Bank of England, demanding action to revive manufacturing. Their attacks come as the future of the Kvaerner/Govan shipyard hang in the balance and follow a stream of job losses.

John Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB, blamed the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee for leaving manufacturing "to live year by year on the edge of extinction".

Roger Lyons, leader of the MSF, joined the calls for a shake-up of the Monetary Policy Committee, saying it had little appreciation of manufacturing and the effects of job losses on regions such as Scotland, which has one of the highest unemployment rates. He said the Bank should be renamed "the Bank of South-East England". He called for the MPC's Alan Budd to be replaced by a manufacturing expert.

Mr Edmonds told the Scottish Trades Union Congress that if manufacturing were to have a future there was "no place for the DTI mentality" and that "setting interest rates is too important to be left to a bunch of dilettantes". He spoke as unions backed a call for a full-scale strategic review of manufacturing industry and urged the Government to bring forward Ministry of Defence contracts to help prospects for the threatened Kvaerner shipyards.

While Mr Edmonds emphasised he was not criticising Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who helped to secure the future of Rover's Longbridge plant, he said that the prevailing attitude of DTI civil servants was to discourage anything they feared as protectionism.

He said a union-backed move to promote British goods was snubbed by the DTI in favour of a European campaign. He said as soon as the minister "relaxes for a moment", the DTI offers manufacturing initiatives little support.

SB hopes for brittle bone treatment dashed

By Paul Durman

SIDE effect problems have forced SmithKline Beecham to abandon work on an osteoporosis drug that was one of its most promising compounds after spending hundreds of millions of pounds on its development.

The setback with idoxifene, which was intended to prevent the brittle bone disease, will increase the importance placed on Avandia, the potential diabetes blockbuster, which American regulators will review tomorrow. The success of Avandia, which if approved could be launched in June, is seen as the cornerstone of SB's future growth, and even of the company's continued independence.

Jan Leschly, chief executive, said SB had spent "hundreds of millions" on taking idoxifene through to phase III trials but a recent review concluded that the drug would not be effective. Some forecasts had suggested the drug could generate annual sales of almost £500 million a year. SB is continuing to develop the compound to treat breast cancer.

The group reported strong first-quarter results, with pre-tax profits 16 per cent ahead at £510 million from sales 11 per cent higher at £2.1 billion. The growth came largely from Seroxat/Paxil, the anti-depressant that is winning market share from Eli Lilly's Prozac, from the antibiotic Augmentin, whose sales rose 19 per cent to £297 million, and from Nicorette and other anti-smoking products, where sales grew by two-thirds to £112 million.

SB has also had to stop work on developing Famvir to treat hepatitis B because of poor trial results. Mr Leschly said SB still had six drugs in phase III development, including Ariflo for emphysema, the potent antibiotic Factive and Bexxar for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Mr Leschly dismissed persistent suggestions that he intends to retire early — a move seen as encouraging the likelihood of SB entering into a merger.

He said the company was on course to meet its forecast for this year of underlying earnings growth of 13 per cent. After adjusting for currency fluctuations, first-quarter earnings per share rose by exactly this amount.

Clinical Laboratories and Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, the two American businesses recently sold for $2 billion (£1.25 billion), contributed quarterly profits of only £11 million, although this was a sharp improvement on last year.

The success with smoking cessation products enabled the consumer healthcare division to increase profits by 27 per cent to £89 million.

Tempus, page 32





RICHARD POHLE

Bill Wood, left, managing director of Cosalt, and Neil Carrick, financial director, wearing survival clothing made by the supplier of workwear and safety equipment to unveil flat profits of £2.3 million in its half year to February 28. Cosalt blamed "challenging" trading conditions. Earnings per share fell 4 per cent, to 12.8p. The interim payout rises to 4.75p (4.5p).

Bank chiefs fear cost of three-way merger

From Paul Armstrong in Paris

THE French banking industry is fearing for its future amid the growing prospect that the hostile three-way merger between Banque Paribas, Société Générale and Banque Nationale de Paris(BNP) could end in stalemate.

The banks' senior executives acknowledge that the bitter battle may fail to produce a clear winner, instead leaving the financiers linked by a string of minority shareholdings.

They say this would undermine the strength of the industry and they have no idea how France's banking regulators would solve the problem.

"That is a way of destroying the French banking system," Daniel Bouton, the chairman of SocGen, said yesterday. The French Government, through its regulators, has promised to intervene in such circumstances. But many are concerned that the distractions and uncertainty could encourage foreign banks to take a closer look at the French market.

Regulatory intervention would also send an unfavourable message to international investors about France's progress in developing its financial system.

SocGen and Paribas have agreed to merge, but the deal has been complicated by a Fr208 billion (£20.9 billion) hostile takeover bid for both banks by BNP.

SocGen and Paribas are rejecting BNP's offer on the grounds that a hostile, three-way merger has never been achieved in the banking sector and would not work in this case.

M Bouton claimed yesterday that a three-way merger would see the trio's combined revenue from retail banking fall by at least 5 per cent, and possibly much more.

He argued that the revenue drop, which would be caused by customers taking some of their business to banks unconnected to the group, would occur immediately.

But M Bouton said it would take significantly longer to bring down costs to the same extent.

SocGen and Paribas also rejected suggestions made yesterday by Claude Bébéar, a BNP director, who claimed that senior executives of the two takeover targets had told him in February that they might be interested in forging closer ties with a retail bank such as BNP.

André Levy-Lang, Paribas chairman, said the possibility of a three-way merger involving BNP was first raised by AXA, the French insurance group chaired by M Bébéar. M Bébéar is also a director of SocGen and Paribas.

M Levy-Lang said he and M Bouton told M Bébéar that they "had other things to worry about than BNP".

Shell says Europe is hindering ethical line

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

SHELL, the multinational oil company, says that European law is preventing it from blacklisting corrupt oil industry contractors.

The Anglo-Dutch oil group yesterday published its annual report on ethics and sustainable development, which disclosed that it sacked 69 contractors and suppliers last year. It dismissed three employees for alleged bribery in 1998 and decisions are pending on three.

Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, admitted that the ethics of some suppliers were highly questionable. "I would dearly love to cross them off the list," he said. "If we did so, we would be in trouble with the European Commission."

He denied that Shell hid behind its contractors in countries, such as Nigeria, where corruption is widespread. "If we felt a company was not behaving ethically in relation to our business, we would terminate that contract," he said.

Mr Moody-Stuart admitted, however, that the problem is common. "You cannot impose on people's general work your own standards," he said. "If we did that, we could not deal with certain companies. If you read the French newspapers, you would see that is the case."

Shell's report, *People, Planet & Profits* shows a reduction in incidents of corruption among staff compared with 1997, when 23 people were sacked. However, the report indicates that a fifth of the group's 131 country chairmen identified bribery and corruption as a concern.

Shell's report includes critiques of its social development policy, published from its Internet forum. One entry reads: "All very well, but how did you manage to lose 25 per cent of the stock value in two months? By social activity? Get real!"

Mr Moody-Stuart said: "Our commitment to sustainable development is inextricably linked to our long-term business."

No recession for us, says St Ives

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

MILES EMLEY, the chairman of magazine and direct mail printer St Ives, said yesterday that the much feared UK recession had not hit — at least not in its markets.

St Ives is closely linked with many parts of the economy, printing books — including Maeve Binchy bestsellers — a range of consumer and professional magazines, direct mailings, and documentation for mergers and acquisitions. Yesterday Mr Emley said: "This was the recession that never was."

But he added: "The growth rate has slowed and, to use the jargon, there is a soft landing."

His comments came as St Ives posted a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £27.3 million for the six months to 29 January. Earnings per share rose to 18.04p from 16.23p and the half time dividend is 0.5p ahead at 4.25p.

St Ives shares were the best performing of the top 350 London stocks yesterday rising more than 10 per cent to 530½p, on a day of sharply falling markets.

Tempus, page 32

Miles Emley: 'soft landing'

HSBC's star team of five makes £8m

By Jason Nissé

TWO employees of HSBC Holdings, the banking group, earned more than £2 million last year according to the company's annual report.

One picked up a package worth between £2.4 million and £2.5 million and another received between £2.1 million and £2.2 million.

They were among a team of five traders who earned a total of £8.18 million between them. The five — not named — almost certainly work at HSBC Investment Bank in London.

The worst-paid of the five earned the same as the best-paid director of HSBC, the chairman of the group's Hongkong Bank subsidiary, John Strickland. Mr Strickland, who retired at the end of last year, received a total package worth £934,000.

The report also points out that senior directors and managers are in line for a £3.03 million windfall from the group's restricted share plan. This scheme was opposed by many shareholders when it was introduced in 1996 because it was too generous to its recipients.

Commentary, page 31

It's the good life for L&G and the Pru

By Gavin Lumsden

THE life insurance sector remained in buoyant mood yesterday as Legal & General and Prudential revealed new business had risen by 32 per cent and 18 per cent respectively in the first quarter of the year.

Consolidating its dominance of the market in pooled corporate pension funds, L&G won a string of new mandates for its index tracking investment style, giving it £2.9 billion of new money to manage, an increase of 97 per cent on the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the Pru's banking operations, including Egg, brought in another £3 billion to deposits, bringing to £5 billion the total of cash it now handles on behalf of 400,000 savers.

In their core areas of long-term savings, both insurers reported good growth, although the two trends away from regular premiums towards one-off payments and away from pension towards investment policies continued.

Single premium with profit and investment bonds proved especially popular as older savers shifted money out of low interest building society and bank accounts. L&G's bond sales rose 42.4 per cent to £144 million while the Pru's Prudence Bond surged 59 per cent to £434 million.

Overall, L&G saw UK weighted individual sales, including Peps and unit trusts, advance by 29.3 per cent to £100.5 million.

By contrast, the Pru's entire UK operation increased sales by a relatively meagre 8 per cent to £215 million. Scottish Amicable, the group's channel for independent financial advisers, achieved a 24 per cent rise in sales to £111 million, although the effect of this was negated by the Pru's salesforce which upped sales by 10 per cent to £104 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

C&W poised to raise bid for IDC

THE financial and political battle to control IDC, one of Japan's leading telephone companies, will intensify today when Cable & Wireless raises its Y63 billion (£330 million) bid for the company. The moves comes amid a rumbling political dispute over alleged Japanese protectionism, sparked by IDC's acceptance of an offer from NTT, Japan's dominant telecoms operator in which the Tokyo Government has a controlling stake. C&W is expected to approach IDC's shareholders directly with its new offer, which analysts believe could be as high as Y76 billion. C&W already has a 17.7 per cent stake in the business.

Stephen Byers, Britain's Trade and Industry's Secretary, has already written to the Japanese Government, warning it that if NTT gains control of IDC, it will "raise regulatory and competition issues".

Internet warning

WESTERN EUROPE faces a devastating shortage of almost 600,000 Internet experts by 2002, potentially ruining the region's economic competitiveness, a report out today says. The shortage is likely to hit small and medium-sized firms hardest because it will let freelancing "networking professionals" keep on raising their fees. *The Internet Economy — An Employment Paradox?* by IDC, the researcher, for Cisco Systems, forecasts a UK shortage of about 82,000 experts by 2002.

Jurys takes over Doyle

JURYS Hotel Group has finally coaxed its privately-owned Dublin rival, Doyle Hotel Group, to the altar. Seven months after it admitted being in talks, Jurys yesterday announced it was taking over Doyle for €238.2 million (£157 million). Including debt, Doyle is worth €314.4 million. Jurys, to be renamed Jurys Doyle Hotel Group, is paying half in new shares and the balance in cash. Doyle has seven hotels in Dublin, three in Washington DC and the Clifton Ford Hotel in London.

Video five sign up

FIVE video games developers, with an average age of 28, yesterday signed a multi-million pound deal with Eidos, the company behind hit games titles such as *Tomb Raider*. The five are to develop new titles for Eidos through their Free Radical Design company. Four of them were previously responsible for the *Goldeneye* video game adaptation of the James Bond film, which has so far sold more than six million copies. The terms of yesterday's deal have not been disclosed.

Bellway sales slip

BELLWAY, the residential housebuilder, blamed delays in the planning process for a slight drop in the number of sales in the first half but said it was confident of making up ground during the rest of the year. Pre-tax profits for the six months to January 31, 1999, fell to £21.2 million, from £22.8 million, as the number of homes sold in the period slipped to 2,007 from 2,092. The interim dividend rises to 3.3p (3.0p).

New Michelin man

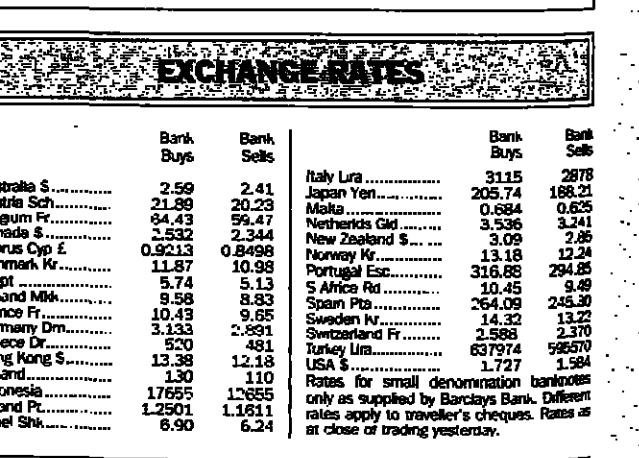
MICHELIN, the French tyre manufacturer, yesterday announced that Edouard Michelin, 36, would succeed his father, Francois, 73, as head of the secretive, family-controlled firm. The transition comes as a sensitive time for Michelin, following an 8.5 per cent fall in profits last year to Ffr 3.7 billion (£372 million) because of the intense competition with Bridgestone and Goodyear.

McCarthy & Stone up

McCARTHY & STONE, the retirement homes builder, is to exploit the "firmness" in the housing market to invest up to £20 million in the North East and West of England. In the six months to February 28, the company sold 605 homes up from 490 last time, and booked a 33 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.1 million on turnover of 51.7 million (£41.0 million). The interim dividend rises to 1.33p (1.0p).

Air Partner down 35%

AIR PARTNER, the chartered corporate jet group formerly known as Air London International, said yesterday that profits slumped 35 per cent at the interim stage because of a fall off in demand over the Christmas quarter. Pre-tax profits for the six months to January 31 were £849,000, but the company is raising the interim dividend to 3.5p (3p) on improved prospects for the second half. The shares fell 12½p to 212½p.



EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.59	2.41
Austria Sch	21.89	20.23
Belgium Fr	64.43	59.47
Canada $	2.532	2.344
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9213	0.8498
Denmark Kr	11.87	10.98
Egypt	5.74	5.13
Finland Mkk	9.58	8.83
France Fr	10.43	9.65
Germany Dm	3.133	2.891
Greece Dr	520	481
Hong Kong $	13.38	12.18
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17655	12655
Ireland Pt	1.2501	1.1611
Israel Shk	6.90	6.24
Italy Lira	3115	2878
Japan Yen	205.74	188.21
Malta	0.684	0.625
Netherlds Gld	3.536	3.241
New Zealand $	3.09	2.85
Norway Kr	13.18	12.24
Portugal Esc	316.88	294.85
S Africa Rd	10.45	9.49
Spain Pta	264.09	245.30
Sweden Kr	14.32	13.22
Switzerland Fr	2.588	2.370
Turkey Lira	637974	595570
USA $	1.727	1.584

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Speculators cheered by interest in Greenalls

INVESTORS were happy to raise a glass to **Greenalls**, the pubs and De Vere hotel chain operator, amid claims **Whitbread** is poised to launch a bid. Greenalls touched 351p before settling 8½p dearer at 345½p as talk of a bid of up to 500p a share from rival Whitbread, 31p higher at £10.38, did the rounds.

Whitbread is known to be on the lookout for suitable acquisitions and brokers reckon that its Marriott hotel chain would make a nice fit with Greenalls De Vere chain and David Lloyd with Village Leisure.

The speculators were also keeping an eye on **Swallow Group**, up 12½p at 317½p, whose Vaux Breweries business was recently the subject of a failed management buyout. Analysts reckon Whitbread, Ladbroke, and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels could all be interested.

The overnight loss of a 250-point lead on Wall Street and heavy losses suffered by the high-tech stocks on Nasdaq sent investors in London scurrying for cover. Prices tumbled across the board in London as investors raced to take profits following the record breaking run of the past few days. Opening losses for the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading yesterday only compounded the problem.

The FTSE 100 index, down 235.1 at one stage, eventually closed 195.5 lower at 6,319.8 in another big trading session that saw 1.2 billion shares change hands. The FTSE 250 index also shed 95.8 to 5,753.6. Further losses are expected over the next few days.

There was a clear move by investors out of telecom stocks, which suffered some of the biggest falls among blue chips, and into the drinks and leisure sectors. **Energis** dropped 137p to £15.51, **Reuters** 70½p to 861½p, **COLT Telecom** 83p to £10.70 and **Telewest** 20p to 252¾p, while **Reckitt & Colman** climbed 18p to 679½p, **Diageo** 12p to 688p and **Scottish & Newcastle** 4p to 703p.

Marks & Spencer rose 11p to 444¼p on the back of speculation that Warren Buffett has acquired a 3 per cent stake. But West LB Panmure, the broker, says the shares are a "strong sell".

Kingfisher, down 50p to 746p, continued to lose ground in the wake of announcing merger terms with **Asda**, 10p off at 183¾p. **The Television Corporation**, a recent high-flyer, came under pressure retreating 6p to 292½p after Terry Bate, chairman, sold one million shares at 296p. He continues to hold 4.6 million, or 17.78 per cent. Earlier this week, Schroder Investment Management lifted its stake in the company to 3.4 million shares, or 13 per cent.



John McCarthy, chairman, left, and Keith Lovelock, chief executive, saw shares of McCarthy & Stone slip 3½p to 203½p

The prospect of a bidding war developing for control of **First Choice Holidays**, 2p firmer at 192p, took some of the shine off its other competitors with **Airtours** losing another 35p to 453½p and **Thomson Travel** shedding 16p to 159p. Thomson is adamant that it will not give up its status as market leader. However, fund managers, still mindful of the damage inflicted on the industry during the last price war, are said to be seething at the company's threat to go down the same route in a bid to damage Airtours should it target First Choice.

First Choice has already agreed terms with Kuoni of Switzerland, but City speculators are convinced that one of its rival companies will be making a spoiling bid.

Bid hopes at **Blagden Industries** dived when the group announced plans to dispose of a "substantial part" of the business and return the proceeds to shareholders. Blagden was the subject of unsuccessful bid talks with potential partners last year. The price finished 4½p lower at 147p.

Aggregate Industries retreated 4p to 84¾p as some chunky blocks of stock went through the market. It included 2.5 million at 87p, and a further 2 million at 86p.

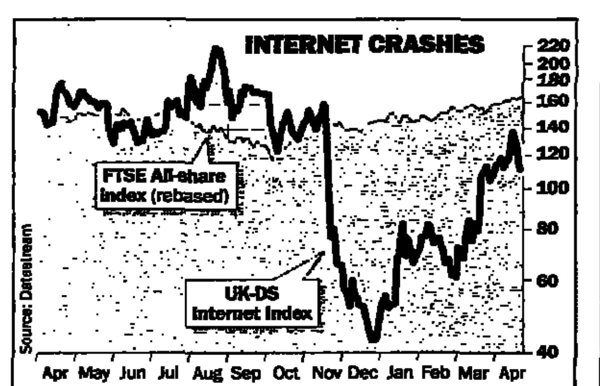
By contrast, **Thistle Hotels** firmed 1½p to 179p supported by the appearance of a large buyer snapping up a line of 3.46 million shares at 177p and 3.4 million also at 177p. A further line of 1.19 million went through at the 178p level. The shares now stand just 9p above the 170p they were floated at in the autumn of 1996.

Affinity Internet, the Internet provider, began trading on AIM after a placing by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 70p. Despite the drubbing received by other high-tech stocks, Affinity ended the session at 140p.

There was a lukewarm response to interim results from **McCarthy & Stone**, down 3½p at 203½p. The builder and operator of sheltered accommodation reported an increase in pre-tax profits of £12 million compared with £9.1 million last time.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices stretched this week's lead with gains stretching to more than £1 among longer-dated issues. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 43p to £117.48 as 21,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 113p to £147.68, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 14p dearer at £106.34.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US blue chips were lower despite a recovery in high-tech shares. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 41.23 points to 10,399.30.



THE sell-off of technology stocks this week on Nasdaq is likely to act as a warning to investors not to get too carried away.

Investors on both sides of the Atlantic have been indiscriminately buying shares in companies that have yet to make a profit and whose market value is based on their alleged potential to do well. The shake-out on Nasdaq is probably a healthy move and was matched, to a certain extent in London.

Losses were recorded in Internet players such as Geo Interactive Media, down 8p at 136½p, On-Line, 9p lower at 142½p, Internet Technology, 13p cheaper at 179p, Easynet, 30p down at 505p, and Sports Internet 18p to 163½p.

Acorn Group was another casualty, dropping 24½p to 219p. It has a 27 per cent stake in Arm Holdings, steady at £25.95, which enjoys a quote in London and on Nasdaq.

London Pacific, which is reckoned to boast a $1 billion portfolio of Internet stocks, fell 55p to 372½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ... 10399.30 (-41.23)
S&P Composite ... 1390.45 (-10.96)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ... 16697.11 (+22.90)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ... 12409.78 (-356.66)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index ... 549.62 (-9.77)

Sydney:
AO ... 3090.1 (-23.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX ... 5087.29 (-132.86)

Singapore:
Straits ... 1809.48 (-32.83)

Brussels:
BEL20 ... 3223.27 (-78.30)

Paris:
CAC-40 ... 4253.27 (-126.07)

Zurich:
SMI Index ... 7129.4 (-119.4)

London:
FT 30 ... 3985.6 (-106.4)
FTSE 100 ... 6319.8 (-195.5)
FTSE 250 ... 5753.6 (-95.8)
FTSE 350 ... 3024.1 (-86.7)
FTSE Eurotop 100 ... 2944.38 (-79.90)
FTSE All-Share ... 2929.26 (-80.99)
FTSE Non Financials ... 2932.01 (-80.76)
FTSE Fixed Interest ... 154.63 (+0.44)
FTSE Govt Secs ... 111.46 (+0.51)
Bargains ... 96676
SEAQ Volume ... 1206.9m
US$ ... 1.6161 (+0.0044)
Euro ... 0.6594 (+0.0009)
£:SDR ... 1.1919
Exchange Index ... 104.0 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI ... 164.1 Mar (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX ... 163.2 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Affinity Internet	143½		...
Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95		...
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½		...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	112½	–	1½
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	24½	–	½
Edinburgh Inc & Val	106		..
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pf	104½	+	1
Gartmore High Income	108¾	+	¾
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	109¼	+	¼
M Currie Cap Return	77	–	¼
M Currie Portfolio	81¾	–	2½
Sherry FitzGerald	147		...
Sports Internet	163½	–	18
Triven VCT	100		...
Voyager 2000	6½		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	1	–	¾
Mice Group n/p (80)	12	–	1
Versalite n/p (05)	1¼		..

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Denby Group	103½	+ 24½	+ 31.0
Lon Forfaitng	62½	+ 10	+ 19.0
St Ives Gp	530½	+ 49	+ 10.1
Servomex	143	+ 12	+ 9.1
Tops Ests	132½	+ 10	+ 8.1
IWP Intl	135	+ 10	+ 8.0
Hepworth	195	+ 14	+ 7.7
Eve Group	259	+ 16½	+ 6.8
Oasis Stores	244	+ 15½	+ 6.7
Dobbies Garden	340	+ 20	+ 6.2
TDG	220½	+ 12½	+ 6.0
Church	383½	+ 18½	+ 5.0
Ellis & Everard	212½	+ 10	+ 4.9
Wetherspoon JD	282½	+ 13	+ 4.8
Sappi	450¾	+ 20¾	+ 4.8
ICI	705½	+ 32	+ 4.7
Greencore	237	+ 10	+ 4.4
Wyndeham	256½	+ 10½	+ 4.2
Swallow Group	317½	+ 12½	+ 4.0
Osborne & Little	412½	+ 15	+ 3.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
London Pacific	372½	– 55	– 12.8
FI Group	287½	– 37½	– 11.5
Xenova	101	– 12½	– 11.0
IOC Intl	89½	– 11	– 10.9
Acorn	219	– 24½	– 10.0
ARM Holdings	2595	–287½	– 9.9
Thomson Travel	159	– 16	– 9.1
Sage Gp	1925	–192½	– 9.0
Dialog	119½	– 11½	– 8.7
Hutch Whamp	521	– 47½	– 8.3

TEMPUS

Avandia is the key

ONLY in the merger-crazed drug sector could a company producing a robust 16 per cent increase in quarterly pre-tax profits to £510 million be seen as vulnerable to a takeover. But that chance continues to buoy SB shares, even though pharmaceutical stocks in general have been out of favour lately.

After some disappointing noises from Pfizer and Eli Lilly, SmithKline Beecham turned in a strong set of figures yesterday. SB's twin pillars, the antidepressant Paxil/Seroxat and the ageing antibiotic Augmentin, continue to grow strongly. And the company expects to wring £200 million of annual savings from the factory closures and other belt-tightening measures. It should have little trouble meeting its forecast for 13 per cent growth in earnings this year.

But look beyond Paxil and Augmentin, and it quickly becomes clear how much depends on the outcome of tomorrow's American review of Avandia, SB's diabetes drug. Relifex/Relafen for arthritis and the antiemetic Kytril are going backwards. The heart drug Kredex/Coreg is finally taking off, but its sales remain small. The failure in trials of idoxifene, a promising drug for brittle bone disease, clearly does not help. Avandia, already filed for regulatory approval in 33 countries, could help to relieve the pressure. Warner-Lambert's Rezulin is already generating $750 million a year and Avandia appears to be a safer drug. SB is a fine company and, although drug stock valuations still look stretched, it represents a good each-way bet. Either Avandia will deliver continued growth in earnings, or Glaxo Wellcome will come calling again.

Hold.

St Ives

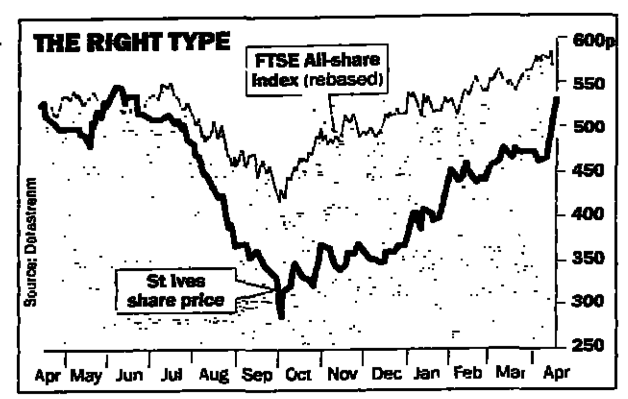
IN THE past six months shares in St Ives have all but doubled in value. The scale of the achievement is tempered by the fact that the stock virtually halved in value in the previous quarter. But in truth neither the de-rating, nor the re-rating, had much to do with trading at the company.

Swinging sentiment about the wider economic environment is responsible for the St Ives share price volatility. The business is closely connected with the health of the economy. Six months ago we sat at the nadir of last year's gloom. Now things, in this country at least, look much rosier.

All the while trading results have ticked along nicely. There was confirmation of St Ives's reliability in the interim figures published yesterday. Pricing pressure means St Ives will always have to work hard to deliver returns. There is a latent — probably very latent — threat that St Ives's core printing business will be overtaken by e-commerce, too.

But this company has underlying strengths and the management shows every sign of knowing, and working to, its challenges. Encouragingly, good chunks of business are also in added service and time sensitive sectors, both factors which help margin. St Ives invests in plant and in value adding acquisitions, and yet is strongly cash generative and ungeared.

At 530¼p, the shares trade on a forward p/e of 14. This is likely to be a volatile share, but it is a good share to hold.



Debenhams

WHILE all about have been making horrible mistakes, Debenhams has done nothing wrong. It is an achievement to increase profits despite falling sales and despite the fact that competitors have discounted frantically.

To a large extent, the market already recognises Debenhams' virtues. Its shares have been rising steadily throughout the poor winter and spring trading periods. Moreover, an upturn in consumer confidence is more likely to benefit retailers in highly cyclical areas, such as furniture and DIY, and those with high operational gearing, such as Arcadia — Debenhams' former stablemate in the Burtons empire.

But from an operational point of view, Debenhams has attractions for long-term investors. Many innovations — such as the development of high-class own labels — were initiated when it was still part of the Burton Group, but the management has continued along the same lines with great success. More brands are being introduced to the stores, both those that are self-generated and those that come in from outside, such as Pierre Cardin.

The company is concentrating on margins, but there is plenty of scope for sales to rise in the next three to four years with new store openings in the offing, and a refurbishment programme under way. Even after their good run, the shares remain on a 15 per cent discount to the market. Buy.

Inn Business

SHAREHOLDERS of Inn Business have had a torrid time during the past 12 months. But patience could soon be rewarded with one, if not two, takeover predators lurking. Last month Enterprise Inns turned its acquisitive intentions from Inn Business to Century Inns. Nonetheless, there is every chance that Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist, will bid. And this might prompt Enterprise to return to the fray.

Even if you take a worst-case scenario and neither bid materialises, a compelling positive case remains. Inn Business's recent full-year results, showed a 20 per cent jump in pre-tax profits. It met market expectations, and the acquisition of Trent Taverns and a 25 per cent stake in Scorpio Inns should ensure continued progress.

Management is adept at controlling costs while investing wisely in both its core tenanted houses and its fledgeling Hooden Horse managed pubs. Peel Hunt, the company's broker, is forecasting earnings per share this year of 9.55p valuing the shares on a multiple of just 7.4 times.

Buy the shares, but grab the bargain price soonest: it may not be around for long.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	741-739	Jul	880-879
Jul	764-761	Sep	898-895
Sep	786-783	Dec	923-918
Dec	813-810	Mar	945-940
Mar	838-836		
May	862-859		Volume: 5780

ROBUSTA COFFEE

May	1480-1477	Jan	1508-1500
Jul	1480-1477	Mar	1500 BID
Sep	1495-1490	May	unq
Nov	1505-1500		Volume: 3867

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	191.3-88.5
Spot: 192.5		May	195.8-89.7
Aug	178.4-78.0	Aug	200.8-91.0
Oct	180.0-79.7	Oct	205.8-85.0
Dec	182.8-81.2		Volume: 1406

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 19

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	65.46	104.18	93.74
(+/–)	–1.88	–1.18	+0.07
Eng/Wales	65.53	105.56	93.31
(+/–)	–2.05	–1.01	–0.08
%	–10.0	–14.0	–8.0
Scotland	63.96	94.63	98.11
(+/–)	+1.84	–3.32	+0.41
%	–8.0	–24.0	+32.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	15.90	–0.20
Brent 15 day (Jun)	15.90	–0.20
Brent 15 day (Jul)	15.70	–0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	17.60	–0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	17.50	–0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	165 (n/c)	167 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	133 (+1)	135 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	71 (+1)	73 (+1)
Naphtha	139 (+3)	141 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

May	131.50-31.75	Aug	135.25 BID
Jun	132.75-33.00	Sep	137.25 SLR
Jul	134.00-34.25		Vol: 15000

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	15.91 SLR	Sep	15.40 BID
Jul	15.74 BID	Oct	n/a
Aug	15.57 BID		Vol: 33377

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	76.90	May	75.25
Jul	78.00	Sep	73.75
Sep	75.00	Nov	75.75
Nov	77.10	Jan	77.75
Jan	79.00	Mar	79.75
Volume: 455		Volume: 10	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	unq	170.0
Jun		180.0
Nov		75.0
		Volume: 82

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May ... 42.00-42.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 99	930	930	930
May 99	955	940	940
Jun 99	880	880	880
Jul 99	855	850	850
Vol: 41 lots		Open interest: 2468	

Index 908 +9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1509.0-1510.0	1538.0-1539.0	2837775
Lead ($/tonne)	532.00-533.00	535.00-535.50	487225
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1024.0-1024.5	1044.0-1045.0	945750
Tin ($/tonne)	5435.0-5440.0	5440.0-5445.0	59310
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1301.0-1301.5	1322.5-1323.0	3516075
Nickel ($/tonne)	5180.0-5185.0	5260.0-5265.0	197490

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	117.30	117.60	117.20	117.48	21125	79833
	Sep 99				117.18	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				108.02	0	0
	Sep 99				108.02	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	114.68	114.92	114.64	114.77	11185	38708
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	134.70	134.70	134.55	134.62	1812	0
	Sep 99				133.73	0	0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.840	94.870	94.840	94.860	14077	182196
	Sep 99	94.870	94.900	94.860	94.900	28093	194645
	Dec 99	94.620	94.700	94.620	94.685	13710	146456
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.390	97.405	97.390	97.405	19376	215325
	Sep 99	97.420	97.425	97.400	97.420	28320	209444
	Dec 99	97.190	97.230	97.190	97.225	17424	124257
	Mar 00	97.260	97.300	97.260	97.295	23016	112539
	Jun 00	97.180	97.210	97.180	97.205	13084	65536
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	99.010	99.030	99.000	99.030	6489	109277
	Sep 99	98.920	98.950	98.910	98.940	4446	72795
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.400	97.400	97.400	97.405	670	104490
	Sep 99				97.420	0	92842
	Dec 99				97.225	0	83110
	Mar 00				97.295	0	83880
	Jun 00				97.305	0	63416
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6493.0	6495.0	6315.0	6347.0	33586	302809
	Sep 99	6437.5	6437.5	6437.5	6394.5	1000	4897

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks: 5¼ Finance House: 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 5¾ Week fixed: 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5, 3 mth 4[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 4[illegible], 3 mth 4[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates: Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5¼, close 6¼					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	5¼
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.82	n/a	4.85	4.96	5.18
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2[illegible]ds-2[illegible]pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $284.70-285.10 **Close:** $284.60-285.10 **High:** $284.60-285.10 **Low:** $284.30-284.80 **AM:** $284.55 **PM:** $284.35

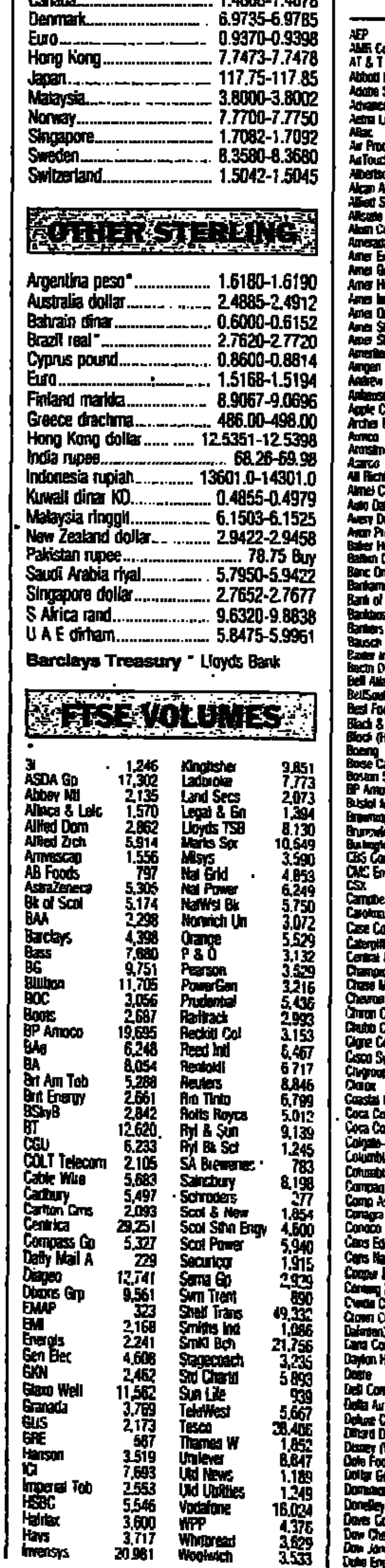
Krugerrand: $285.25-287.25 (£176.50-178.50)

Platinum: $364.00 (£225.25) **Silver:** $5.18 (£3.205) **Palladium:** $384.00 (£237.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.265-11.290	11.265-11.280	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Euro	1.5157-1.5177	1.5160-1.5174	0.14-0.17ds	0.41-0.44ds
Montreal	2.4004-2.4074	2.4035-2.4066	0.15-0.08pr	0.41-0.28pr
New York	1.6138-1.6176	1.6158-1.6168	0.062-0.043pr	0.118-0.087pr
Oslo	12.546-12.566	12.549-12.566	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	13.501-13.543	13.519-13.543	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	190.48-191.25	191.01-191.25	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.4279-2.4368	2.4279-2.4310	1-[illegible]pr	2[illegible]pr

Source: [illegible] Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5375-1.5389
Canada	1.4868-1.4878
Denmark	6.9735-6.9785
Euro	0.9370-0.9398
Hong Kong	7.7473-7.7478
Japan	117.75-117.85
Malaysia	3.8000-3.8002
Norway	7.7700-7.7750
Singapore	1.7082-1.7092
Sweden	8.3580-8.3680
Switzerland	1.5042-1.5045

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6180-1.6190
Australia dollar	2.4885-2.4912
Bahrain dinar	0.6000-0.6152
Brazil real*	2.7620-2.7720
Cyprus pound	0.8600-0.8814
Euro	1.5168-1.5194
Finland markka	8.9067-9.0696
Greece drachma	486.00-498.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.5351-12.5398
India rupee	68.26-69.98
Indonesia rupiah	13601.0-14301.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4855-0.4979
Malaysia ringgit	6.1503-6.1525
New Zealand dollar	2.9422-2.9458
Pakistan rupee	78.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7950-5.9422
Singapore dollar	2.7652-2.7677
S Africa rand	9.6320-9.8838
U A E dirham	5.8475-5.9961

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,246	Kingfisher	9,851
ASDA Gp	17,302	Ladbroke	7,773
Abbey Ntl	2,135	Land Secs	2,073
Allnce & Leic	1,570	Legal & Gn	1,394
Allied Dom	2,862	Lloyds TSB	8,130
Allied Zrch	5,914	Marks Spr	10,649
Amvescap	1,556	Misys	3,590
AB Foods	797	Nat Grid	4,853
AstraZeneca	5,305	Nat Power	6,249
Bk of Scot	5,174	NatWst Bk	5,750
BAA	2,298	Norwich Un	3,072
Barclays	4,398	Orange	5,529
Bass	7,880	P & O	3,132
BG	9,751	Pearson	3,529
Billiton	11,705	PowerGen	3,216
BOC	3,056	Prudential	5,436
Boots	2,687	Railtrack	2,993
BP Amoco	19,695	Reckitt Col	3,153
BAe	6,248	Reed Intl	6,467
BA	8,054	Rentokil	6,717
Brit Am Tob	5,288	Reuters	8,846
Brit Energy	2,661	Rio Tinto	6,799
BSkyB	2,842	Rolls Royce	5,012
BT	12,620	Ryl & Sun	9,139
CGU	6,233	Ryl Bk Scl	1,245
COLT Telecom	2,105	SA Breweries	783
Cable Wire	5,683	Sainsbury	8,198
Cadbury	5,497	Schroders	277
Carlton Cms	2,093	Scot & New	1,854
Centrica	29,251	Scot Sthn Engy	4,600
Compass Gp	5,327	Scot Power	5,940
Daily Mail A	229	Securicor	1,915
Diageo	13,741	Serco Gp	2,929
Dixons Grp	9,561	Svrn Trent	890
EMAP	323	Shell Trans	49,332
EMI	2,168	Smiths Ind	1,086
Energis	2,241	SmKl Bch	21,756
Gen Elec	4,608	Stagecoach	3,235
GKN	2,462	Std Chartd	5,893
Glaxo Well	11,562	Sun Life	939
Granada	3,769	TeleWest	5,667
GUS	2,173	Tesco	28,406
GRE	587	Thames W	1,852
Hanson	3,519	Unilever	8,847
ICI	7,693	Utd News	1,189
Imperial Tob	2,553	Utd Utilities	1,249
HSBC	5,546	Vodafone	16,024
Halifax	3,600	WPP	4,376
Hays	3,717	Whitbread	3,629
Invensys	20,981	Woolwich	3,533

WALL STREET

	Apr 20 midday	Apr 19 close
AEP	41	40[illegible]
AMR Corp	69[illegible]	67[illegible]
AT & T	53[illegible]	53[illegible]
Abbott Labs	48[illegible]	47[illegible]
Adobe Systems	59[illegible]	58[illegible]

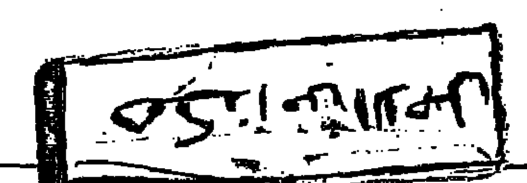
[illegible]

	Apr 20 midday	Apr 19 close
Du Pont	67[illegible]	68[illegible]
Eastman Chem	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	75	75[illegible]
Eaton Corp	87[illegible]	90[illegible]

[illegible]

	Apr 20 midday	Apr 19 close
Nthn State Pw	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Occidental Pet	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
Office Depot	19[illegible]	19[illegible]
Oracle	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Owens Corning	37[illegible]	38[illegible]

[illegible]



Shares go their own way

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

As the IMF sounded the all-clear yesterday, investors apparently dived for the air raid shelters. In Washington, they may have decided that global meltdown is not about to happen but in London, this welcome reassurance was greeted with a near-200 point fall in the FTSE.

Could this apparently churlish response have actually been the result of a close reading of the IMF forecasts and a realisation that, while worldwide recession may have been avoided, share prices have run way out of line of growth prospects? Unlikely. What we saw was just a little bout of profit-taking rather than any dawning of long-term common sense.

That Dixons was one of the major victims does not amount to a realisation that its sudden transformation into an Internet stock is, to be charitable, still unproven. The shares still trade at almost treble their low point for the year. No wonder some were tempted to crystallise the extraordinary gains they have made.

COLT Telecom, even after yesterday's hefty 71p dip, remains in the stratosphere, and profitless.

At some stage, stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic will have to reassess valuations in relation to earnings, but that day has not yet arrived. The IMF takes the view that the threat of a stock market crash in the US is now abating, but a significant adjustment is inevitable.

For the UK, the IMF predicts only 0.7 per cent growth in the current year, lower than the Treasury's own forecast of between 1 and 1.5 per cent. That FTSE companies are now selling on an average of more than 28 times earnings indicates the incredibly optimistic view being pursued by some investors.

Looked at starkly, the figures are enough to drive one into sympathising with poor Tony Dye and his colleagues at PDFM but we all know where their determinedly rational approach has left them: losing clients at a rapid rate.

Mr Dye insists on looking at the real world rather than the virtual one. John Monks, the trade union leader, is peering through the same untinted spectacles and yesterday he was once more warning of the two nations into which the UK is rapidly dividing. Jobs in manufacturing industry continue to ebb away: what is manufactured in Morocco for Marks and Spencer is no longer manufactured in Britain. There are now regions of the country where the only new jobs being created appear to be in call centres built to service the needs of those in the wealthier parts of the country. And the chances are that as the virtual world takes hold, and more and more business is done over the Internet, the call centres will become as redundant as many of those who now staff them once were.

Lower interest rates will not revive ship-building in Britain nor restore the textile industry, yet the calls for further cuts go on. Yesterday John Edmonds denounced the members of the Monetary Policy Committee as "dilettante" and intimated that a trade unionist on the MPC could change things. Wishful thinking.

Even gnomes slam withholding tax

There is honour among financial centres after all. Zurich, the supposed beneficiary of the European Commission's loopy proposals to impose withholding tax on interest, turns out to be aghast at the idea.

Being neutral means trying not to upset more powerful nations such as Germany too much. The last thing the Swiss want to do, therefore, is to upset all their neighbours and key trading partners at once. But that is exactly what they would do if they vacuumed up the custom not just of eurobond investors but of EU savers as a whole to avoid the EU withholding tax.

A high-level Swiss financial delegation, which came to the City yesterday to promote its high-tech integrated trading system to eurobond traders, instead spent much of its time disclaiming any desire to host the fleeing billions, although the Swiss would probably toe the Brussels line rather than challenge it, lest some future referendum favoured joining the EU.

If that sounds good news for promoters of the tax, it isn't. The Swiss have their own 35 per cent withholding tax but exempt foreign holders of essentially foreign stocks. Georg Krayer, president of the Association of Swiss Bankers, points out that the issue has only resurfaced because savings immediately fled to Luxembourg when Germany and The Netherlands last tried all-purpose national withholding taxes.

At the weekend meeting of EU finance ministers in Dresden, the UK appeared to be playing dangerously with some compromise formula to save the London eurobond trade. Even Mario Monti, the retiring EU Tax Commissioner, says that this will not work. He has not explained that it would tax small investors but exempt the rich, a formula that even the most federal-minded social democrat might find hard to swallow. There are yet more compelling reasons for London to say no, such as higher taxes for even the smallest pension saver.

Luxembourg, unlike panting Blairite Britain, is at the centre of Europe. Its burghers know how to do things. At Dresden, Luxembourg called for harmonisation (or banning) of inward investment incentives to be brought in with the withholding tax. It was a cunning move. This project is being led by our own Dawn Primarolo. It has counted 200 new ruses and rising. No effective recommendations are likely before November, long after tax-hungry Germany has lost the EU presidency, if ever.

As back-up, Doctor Krayer has a suggestion for Gordon Brown. Start by imposing tax at source on government debt, which is fully under control of member states, to see how it goes. That should bring discussion to a halt.

Just what the doctor ordered

The antidepressants are working wonders for Jan Leschly. There may be mutterings of protest about his latest pay package but doctors' enthusiasm for SmithKline Beecham's advance on Prozac will help to ensure that he reaps the maximum rewards for his labours.

The deep-rooted belief that he is worth up to £93 million over nine years will enable Mr Leschly to face up to next week's annual meeting with a smile and without the benefit of any happy pills. If, as seems likely, a few investors take the opportunity to voice their qualms over the pay deal, he will be smoothly unmoved.

Standard Life, that active guardian of corporate governance, has made clear its suspicion that the targets SB is setting to trigger bonuses are not as demanding as they ought to be. But the first-quarter figures show the company well on course to deliver its promised 13 per cent increase in earnings, which will be enough to quell most investors' potential criticisms.

Mr Leschly's pay package does, however, put other deals into perspective. It is evidence of a UK company handing out US-style remuneration. As Glaxo has tacitly noted, other British companies that class themselves as global players will have to move towards the SB levels, if not so far or so fast.

As we become conditioned to the new norms, a mere couple of million pounds for an HSBC banker will seem perfectly reasonable reward for a year's toil in the financial markets.

Standard Life's Guy Jubb is going to find the attitude adjustment hard, but it has to come.

Colossus of erodes

TOMORROW Bernard Arnault's battle for Gucci lands back in the Dutch courts. M Arnault's acquisitions are rarely straightforward affairs. Gucci has tried to expedite matters by saying that an offer of $88 a share would be acceptable, but that is far too simple a solution to appeal to the chairman of LVMH. He has spent several years trying to win control of another up-market label for his wine cellar. Yesterday he was able to declare victory. Never mind money, he had worn the opposition into submission.

Debenhams in fashion with £79.4m

By Sarah Cunningham

TERRY GREEN, chief executive of Debenhams, said the department store group has been taking market share in women's and men's clothing from Marks & Spencer, its beleaguered high street rival.

But Mr Green gave warning of a likely fightback. "I imagine that Marks & Spencer must be making some recovery from its position pre-Christmas. You could say it is making it tougher, not easier," he said.

M&S was forced to issue a profit warning after terrible trading over the key Christmas period. Other clothing retailers have run into difficulties because of the downturn in spending and a large overhang of stock. Mr Green said yesterday: "It's a tough environment out there. It is still volatile, but we think it's improving."

In the six months to February 27, total sales rose 2 per cent to £785.2 million. While like-for-like sales were down 1.9 per cent, costs also fell by a similar amount. Interim pretax profits rose 3 per cent to £79.4 million. Earnings per share were up 2.2 per cent to 14.1p and the company is paying an interim dividend of 4.1p (3.9p).

The gross margin increased by 0.2 percentage points to an estimated 42.1 per cent in the first half. The company said margins were substantially up again in the first seven weeks of the second half. Like-for-like sales, said the company, are down by a similar amount to the first half in the period.

Four new stores were opened in the first half, at Leeds Briggate, Brighton, Hanley and the Trafford Centre in Manchester. There are now 90 stores in the UK. The new programme, announced at the time of Debenhams demerger from the Burton Group last year, will see it increase to more than 100 UK stores by 2003.

Franchise stores have been opened in Kuwait and Dubai, and another is set to open in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in October 2000.

Tempus, page 32

Cut-price stores see sales surge

By Fraser Nelson

TJ HUGHES, which runs 23 cut-price department stores across the UK, said it has lifted underlying sales by 11.6 per cent for the first ten weeks of 1999 as it wins market share from its mid-market rivals.

The company, whose wares include cheap Calvin Klein underwear, said many of its shoppers have deserted traditional high street leaders after finding them too expensive.

Pre-tax profits jumped to £5.1 million (£3 million) for the year to January 31 and earnings were 13.9p (10.2p) a share. A final dividend of 2.76p makes a 3.88p (3.37p) total.



Anglo in bid for Reunion

By Carl Mortished

ANGLO AMERICAN Corporation, the South African mining and industrial conglomerate, is building up its position in zinc with a recommended £37 million bid for Reunion Mining, which controls Skorpion, a big zinc mining project in Namibia in which Anglo has a minority share.

The bid is being made by Minorco, Anglo's affiliate, which is to be integrated fully into Anglo when the South African group moves its primary stock exchange listing to London next month.

Anglo yesterday said that current weakness in base metal prices provide a good opportunity to develop its base metals business. The acquisition of Reunion's 60 per cent interest in Skorpion would give Anglo 100 per cent of the mine, which has ore reserves of 19.5 million tonnes of zinc.

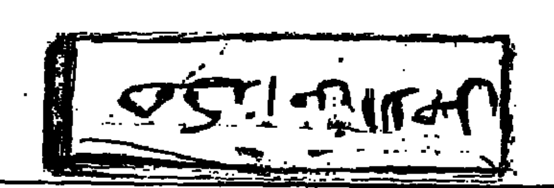
Minorco is offering 88p per Reunion share and has undertakings to accept from Reunion directors and others that exceed 50 per cent of Reunion.

Audit office attacks sale by British Coal

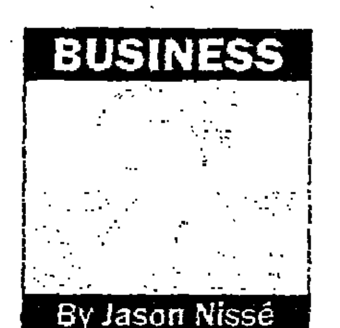
THE National Audit Office (NAO) will today tell Parliament that British Coal's sale of CIN Management (CINMan), a subsidiary that advised and managed its pension funds, was needlessly protracted and expensive (Saeed Shah writes).

The watchdog says that disagreement between the Government, British Coal, CINMan and trustees of the pension schemes meant that the sale, completed in 1996, took a year longer than expected, raising its costs to £7.7 million. The management and staff of CINMan almost derailed the sale by threatening to resign.

The original aim to sell CINMan as one entity had to be dropped after objections from the trustees and it was eventually sold in three parts for £48.9 million. The NAO says that this was substantially less than some bidders had offered for the whole business.



Lamb's scoring is wide of the mark



Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB), is an optimist. Then again he has to be. If you were attempting the Herculean task of restoring English cricket to the fortunes it enjoyed when the likes of May, Hutton and Illingworth led teams that could triumph over all our former colonies — and all you have is a team that contrives to lose to Zimbabwe — you would have to be positive.

However, to trumpet that the English game will make a £30 million profit from the cricket World Cup, which starts next month, is a little over exuberant. It may look like a good figure, but it does not bear close examination.

For a start, the £30 million figure, which actually refers to the ECB's income not profit, is disappointing when compared with the target set by Lamb and the ECB's chairman, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth. The ECB had hoped to clear something in the range of £35 million to £40 million to take advantage of an event that is unlikely to be back on these shores for at least two decades.

The ECB's plan went like this. It would raise about £25 million from broadcasting revenues — mainly television — and £15 million from sponsorship. That £40 million would be split between the ECB and the International Cricket Council — the overall ruling body of cricket — on a 50-50 basis.

In addition, the ECB would also get money from gate receipts at the matches and from merchandising. The former was budgeted to bring in £11 million, the latter, with the help of Caprice, a US model famous for wearing Wonderbras, was expected to raise £1 million.

This would have left a gross income to the ECB of £32 million. The costs of staging the event — hiring venues, transporting teams to the UK and to the grounds and catering, though not the wages for team members, which comes out of the ICC pool and from the local cricket boards — is estimated to be £18 million. This would have left a profit of about £14 million if all had gone to plan.

But it has not. The broadcast income has come in at about £23.5 million. The UK television revenue was fine — the ECB struck an £8 million deal with BSkyB, which allowed some matches to be shown on the BBC. However, an expected bonanza from selling the rights to the Indian sub-continent was not quite as lucrative as had been hoped for, leaving a £1.5 million shortfall.

Sponsorship was also disappointing. The ECB has wanted eight global partners and four official suppliers, paying a total of £15 million for the pleasure. It secured only four global partners — NatWest, Pepsi, Vodafone and Emirates Airlines — but was able to sign six official suppliers. The total raised from sponsorship was £10.5 million.

Michael Browning, the ECB's tournament organiser, blames a number of factors for why the sponsorship figure fell short. One is the Asian financial crisis. The ECB had hoped to sign at least one Japanese company as a global partner — in the end it had to make do with Honda as a supplier. Secondly, it started too late. The ECB began its search for sponsors two years ago — Browning believes that this was 12 months tardy as cricket is not always at the top of people's sponsorship wishlist.

Thirdly, the ECB had planned to use "virtual sponsorship" — an electronic system in which logos show up on television screens in some countries rather than others. This would be used to sell a sponsorship deal probably to Wills, the cigarette-maker, which operates mainly in India and Pakistan. However, after a couple of technical tests, the plan was dropped.

The ECB is putting a brave face on this £4.5 million shortfall, and sponsorship experts think that the problem was not that the ECB did poorly attracting sponsors, but that it had set its sights too high.

Nigel Currie of Craigie Taylor, which advises Vodafone on sponsorship, says that the ECB probably thought that as there was no football World Cup or Olympics this year, it would be able to capitalise on the absence of a big sporting event to win sponsorship. However, it forgot that the rugby union World Cup takes place in the UK this autumn and probably lost a sponsor or two because of this.

The rugby factor has also hindered attemps by some of the teams to secure sponsors. As I write there is no news on a West Indies backer and if you fancy sponsorsing the first Scottish team in the cricket World Cup, Gavin Hastings, the former Scottish rugby captain, awaits your call.

"The big shame is that the ECB has not signed up a big consumer brand — like Snickers or McDonald's — which would help to promote the event through its own promotions," says Mr Currie. Vodafone is doing this to a certain extent and Pepsi might be expected to do something, but it seems most of its promotions are aimed at India and Pakistan, where it is in a bitter battle with Coke.

The final part of the jigsaw is ticket sales. Browning is confident about hitting the £11 million target, having already sold £9 million worth of tickets a month before the event even starts.

All in all this adds up to a gross income for the ECB of £29 million and a profit of about £11 million — a tidy sum but not quite Mr Lamb's £30 million. Of course, the World Cup has meant that there will be two test matches fewer this year than last, a loss of about £5 million in potential profits. So the ECB will end up about £6 million better off than it would have been if it had not staged the World Cup. As they say at Tesco, Lord MacLaurin's old stomping ground, "every little helps".

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North-South divide masks reality of divergent economies

Alasdair Murray examines the increasing clamour for a regional approach

When Eddie George inadvertently suggested that unemployment in the North was a "price worth paying" for keeping inflation in check, he appeared to confirm the region's worst prejudices about the southern bias inherent in Threadneedle Street. A string of indignant manufacturers, union leaders and politicians queued up to berate the Governor of the Bank of England for suggesting that national economic policy was dictated by the excesses of the housing market in the South East. The understandable suspicion was that centralising economic policymaking in London inevitably leads to suffering in the regions.

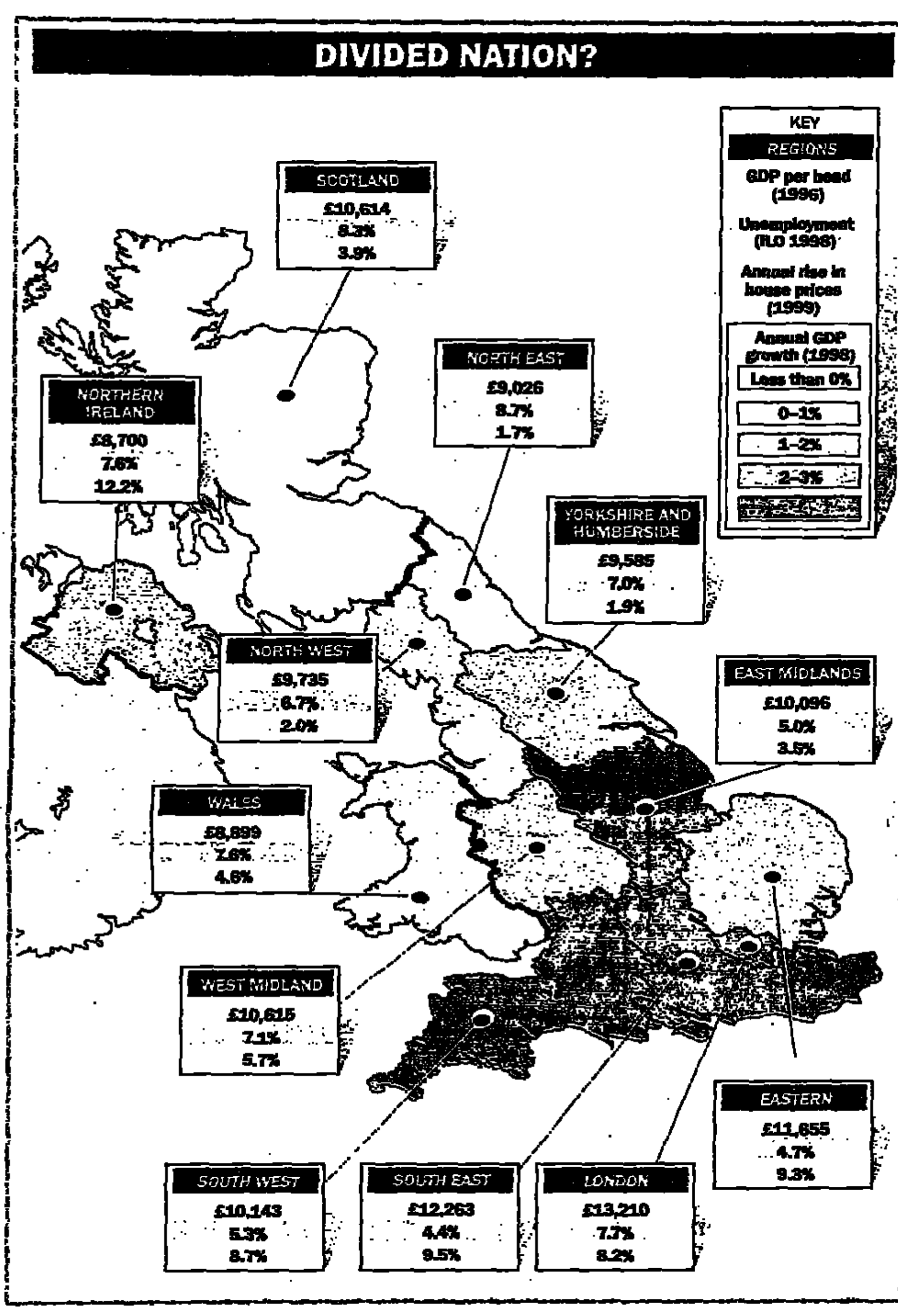
The regional dimension to economic policymaking is set to become a staple of political debate with the creation of the Regional Development Agencies in England and the imminent arrival of the Scottish and Welsh parliaments. For the first time in years, the Bank and the Treasury are facing concerted opposition to national economic policy.

Superficially, the traditional prejudices about the North-South divide seem well grounded. The two worst-performing regional economies, Scotland and the North East, suffer the typical unholy economic trinity of a large manufacturing sector, high unemployment and low GDP per capita. In London, the South East and South West, this position is reversed, with these regions posting the strongest growth rates last year and increasing their economic lead over the rest of the country.

Yet, a closer examination of the data suggests that this regional divergence is not quite so straightforward. Scotland's underperformance — and Business Strategies is predicting it will remain mired in recession this year — is out of proportion to the size of its manufacturing sector. Scotland's manufacturing sector constitutes 23 per cent of its economy — far higher than London's 9 per cent — but below the level of manufacturing in six other regions which have all performed better. Scotland seems to be suffering because of the mix in its manufacturing — a high proportion of textiles and computing hardware — which has had an unexpectedly negative impact on its service sector.

The North East has a typically large manufacturing sector acting as an overall drag on its economy, but it also recorded the country's highest financial and business services sector growth rate at 12.7 per cent last year. The East Midlands, however, seems to have overcome the handicap of a large manufacturing sector — about 28 per cent of the economy — to record a healthy 3.2 per cent growth rate last year. The region has a large concentration of engineers — such as Rolls-Royce in Derby — which seemed to have fared better during the manufacturing downturn, while cities such as Nottingham and Northampton have profited from London services overspill.

Another traditional manufacturing centre, Yorkshire and Humberside, also recorded a solid growth rate of 2.6 per cent last year. Its overall performance, however, concealed a marked divergence between the increasingly services-oriented Leeds area and York's successful pursuit of high-tech start-ups compared with the still depressed regions of South Yorkshire.



The unspoken assumption, however, remains that the manufacturing north needs to be freed from the straitjacket of southern rates. Scotland, in particular, has a strong case for arguing that it has a European-style economy, including at 55 per cent the lowest level of home ownership in Britain, which needs the lower rates of the single currency area.

Yet the complex reality of the regional economies suggests finding an "ideal" regional interest rate is likely to prove no less difficult than setting a single national rate. Nor is it clear that the difference in regional inflation rates justify different rates. While house price increases, which range from 1.7 per cent last year in the North East to 12.2 per cent in post-treaty Northern Ireland, seem to support the case, estimates of the divergence in inflation rates are far less stark. Business Strategies suggests headline inflation last year was in a relatively tight range between 2.2 per cent in Scotland and 3.5 per cent in the eastern region — hardly a simple boom and bust divide.

Nor is it certain that lower rates will prove the necessary cure. As the British Chambers of Commerce noted last week, the problem for manufacturers is not the cost of borrowing but the pound, which remains stubbornly high despite the Bank's rate-cutting spree.

More fundamentally, it is questionable whether short-term monetary policies can reverse the long-term trends within the economy. An examination of the demographic trends suggests there is a close relationship between population growth, low manufacturing output and high economic growth. This is the legacy of the last time the South outperformed the rest of the country heavily, during the 1980s boom. Higher growth rates and better job prospects inevitably attracted workers, especially the mobile young, to move south. These migrants have now settled and had families, boosting population growth and ensuring a healthy young/old mix that suits the service sector. This in turn boosts growth and the circle begins over again.

Reversing this trend is akin to trying to turn a supertanker.

Regional assistance plans, such as the trend of competing for call centre jobs, can alleviate some of the pain, but they do not provide the kind of critical mass necessary to improve the long-term growth rate. Attracting and keeping high earners — who are now heavily concentrated in the services sector — is the real key.

In this sense, the experience of London provides hope. It is often forgotten that only two decades ago, London was still the country's prime manufacturing city. The transition to a services-led economy has proved painful and London still suffers from higher than average unemployment. But after years of losing population, the capital is enjoying an influx of fresh immigrants attracted by good job prospects and strong cultural and leisure services. There are signs that cities such as Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow and Bristol are beginning to foster similar conditions. It is in this subtle process, rather than the quick-fix simplicities of monetary policy, where the future of the regional economies lie.

STILL HEADING SOUTH

LARGEST POPULATION GROWTH	Population increase/decrease 1993 to1998	Manufacturing as proportion of total regional economy (1998)
South East	210,000	16%
London	196,000	9%
Eastern	163,000	21%
LOWEST POPULATION GROWTH		
North West	12,000	25%
Scotland	0	23%
North East	-13,000	28%

Regions suffer from statistical breakdown

There is still a significant stumbling block to conducting a considered debate about Britain's regional economies — the absence of comprehensive and reliable statistics. This country's centralising tendencies seem to include the Office for National Statistics, meaning that while a mass of national economic statistics are produced on a monthly basis, there is rarely an accompanying regional breakdown.

Only the unemployment data is supplied on a regional basis month by month. This data is sufficiently detailed that unemployment can even be measured by parliamentary constituency, ensuring that MPs can keep abreast of the job prospects of their constituents. By contrast, the most recent breakdown of GDP figures dates from 1996, while the regional home-ownership figures are positively prehistoric, hailing from the last great housing downturn in 1993.

One other vital part of the jigsaw — the inflation data — is missing altogether, unlike in other European countries, such as Germany, where state by state inflation data provides an essential part of the overall economic picture. The UK inflation rate was fully "nationalised" in the days when the Government was desperate to encourage wage bargaining at a national level. While this necessity has long since disappeared, there has been no attempt to reincorporate a regional element, the ONS insisting its sample sizes are too small for a reliable regional breakdown, while the Treasury and the Bank of England are focused on a single inflation target.

Individual private organisations have moved to try to fill the gap. Both Halifax and Nationwide supply monthly house-price data, although they use a slightly different regional breakdown to the Government's standard divisions. Business Strategies produces more timely and reliable estimates of regional GDP performance. The economics group even has a stab at local inflation rates, although it admits its own figures — derived from survey evidence rather than real prices — can be no more than a best estimate.

An increasingly devolved nation requires improved regional data. But just who is going to meet the considerable extra costs of providing reliable statistics will prove an interesting battle of wills between the regions and the centre.

Sea sick

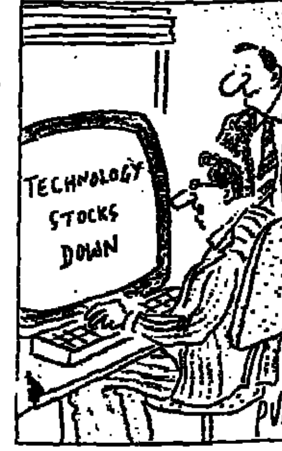


JOHN PRESCOTT is being sued by a former employer for £7.4 million. Not personally, unfortunately, but as Secretary of State for the Environment.

According to the trade publication *Contract Journal*, a writ from P&O Property Holdings alleges that the Department of the Environment, as it used to be, failed to maintain Elizabeth House. Trial is set for December.

This is an office block at London's Waterloo occupied by the DoE from 1971 to 1997 that P&O alleges was left in such a state that the company had to spend £3.4 million putting it right and lost another £4 million in rent and other costs.

Prescott was employed by P&O as a steward on the North Sea run. The DoE is contesting the action. You leave these civil servants unsupervised with a few cans of lager for 16 years and there's no knowing what they'll do...



"Ignore it — our computer must be on the blink"

MY THANKS to the reader who sent in his invitation to a trade fair in Brno, flagged as "the foremost event in the industry in the Czech and Slovak Republics, and dominant in the surrounding region of Central and Eastern Asia". Or possibly not.

Dive bomb

A TRICKY problem for Sunderland Football Club. The team is sponsored by Swallow, formerly known as Vaux, and across the strip is the word "Lamptons", to promote the company's "smooth brew" ale. This is made locally at Vaux Brewery in Sunderland.

Unfortunately the brewery is being closed, a decision that has caused much anguish locally and thrown a large number of Sunderland supporters out of work..

The image merchants were sent off to find another logo for the team. The favourite is a swallow, predictably enough. But someone has pointed out that swallows dive — plus this is exactly what the club, newly promoted to the Premier League, did straight back into the first division the last time it reached such heights.

AN EXTRAORDINARY circular reaches me from one of those anti-European groupuscles breeding like flies in out-of-the-way places. The Enemy Within *details all those organisations suspected of pro-EU tendencies that should be boycotted.*

It must be quite an achievement, knowingly steering clear of the products and services of, among others, BP, BT, Unilever, Unigate, Northern Foods and pretty well all of the British drinks industry.

But British Aerospace? "Difficult to boycott, but bombard with mail, their chief executive treats the British electoral process with contempt". Indeed; it must be a wrench, sending those Hawk trainers back on a point of principle.

Bull market

BELOW is Birmingham's unlovely Bull Ring as you have never seen it before. My picture shows how the development would have looked but for the subsequent attentions of the Luftwaffe and the 1950s school of architecture.

It was found by Peter Bennett, a London antiques dealer, at a house clearance auction. He now hopes to sell it to Land Securities or Hammerson, the two property companies redeveloping the site.

Bennett says that the painting, the work of Joseph Stradler, an engraver, dates to 1812 and is valued at more than £25,000. It is the only known depiction of the scene. The church is St Martin's, which survives to this day and will take pride of place in the new development.

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Widespread falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615½	446	Allied Domecq	492	- 10½	6.2	11.8
361	279½	Bulmer (HP)	351	+ 3½	4.3	15.7
19½	10½	Burn Stewart	19			
742	625	Diageo	688	+ 12	2.7	17.1
730	550	Glenmorangie A	572½	...	2.5	15.5
288	222½	Highland Dist	245	- 1½	3.9	11.5
39½	25	Morydun W	25½	..		

BANKS

1999 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1418½	1146½	ABN-AMRO	1353½	- 9½	2.8	17.9
1475	1056	Abbey Natl	1309	- 55	2.7	18.1
951	739	Alliance & Leicst	880½	- 21½	2.8	16.1
1352½	964½	Allied Irish	964½	- 40½	2.5	20.5
491½	389	ANZ New Z	457	- 14½	4.5	...
4640½	3553½	Bank America	4493½	- 134½		
949	680	Bank Scotland	910	- 18	1.1	22.8
1975	1275	Barclays	1800	- 42	2.3	21.3
1487½	1185	Bk of Ireland	1215	- 32½	2.3	19.9
2009½	1637½	Commerzbank	1925	- 40½	2.7	
454½	316½	Dai Ichi Kan T	428½	+ 3½	1.0	
4040½	2975	Deutsche Bk	2975	- 134½	2.6	
1196½	925	Espirito Santo	996½		3.9	
441½	215½	Fuji Bank	428	- 13½	3.0	
2312	1165	HSBC	2233	- 70	2.5	23.3

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Ecology	132.88	141.35†	- 1.43	0.47
European	314.54	334.09	- 0.23	0.19
Far Eastern	394.50	419.60	+10.30	
UK Special Sits	81.11	86.50†	- 0.99	0.40
Fd of Inv Tsts	64.26	68.54	+ 0.45	
High Income #	73.37	78.25†	+ 0.33	3.58
Financial Opps	84.48	90.10	- 0.99	0.69
Growth & Income #	59.17	63.10	+ 0.14	1.98
Global Opps	61.36	65.38†	- 0.04	0.41

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Esb Growth	145.41	154.69†	-12.78	0.57
Inc & Growth #	108.31	115.22	- 2.06	2.50
Smaller Cos	131.65	140.05†	- 0.79	1.36
Eve Spec Sit Inc	63.58	67.64	- 0.15	1.90
Eve Spec Sit Acc	68.56	72.94	- 0.16	1.90
Pennine Growth	60.41	64.27†	- 0.75	0.89

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How you could be a landlord

Instead of waiting for savings rates to go up, some investors are buying to let. **Rachel Kelly** reports on the costs, profits and pitfalls of letting

THE COSTS

Property: Two-bedroom flat, Fulham, London SW6
Purchase price: £240,000
Cash required: £48,000
Rent: £/WK £400
Net yield: 5.5%
Gross yield: 6.7%. **Surplus before funding:** £13,143
Loan interest: 6.5%. **Surplus after funding:** £663
Loan to value: 80%
Interest on loan: £12,480
ACQUISITION COSTS
Purchase price: £240,000
Stamp duty: @ 1% £2,400
Solicitor's fees: £600
VAT: @ 17.5% £105
Land registry fee: £300
Local search fee: £100
Structural survey fee: £450
VAT: @ 17.5% £79
Refurbishment costs: £5,000
Furnishing: £10,000
Total costs: £259,034
INCOME
Gross rent: £20,800
Void allowance: £1,733
Net rent: £19,067
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE
Service charge: £1,750
Ground rent: £250
Insurance (contents): £200
General maintenance: £200
Utility costs: £75
Contract fees (inc. VAT) £88
Letting fees @ 10% £1,907
VAT: @ 17.5% £334
Management fees: @ 5% £953
VAT: @ 17.5% £167
Total expenditure: £5,924
Surplus available for finance: £13,143
Interest on loan: £12,480
Annual net yield: £663 (5.5%)

If you are serious about playing the property market and making money, it may not be enough just to speculate on your own property: why not buy a second house or flat, too?

"Buy-to-let" investments have boomed as the volatility of world stock markets in recent months has led many to search for investments that offer better returns. Here are the numbers, simply put. Such investments offer the chance of an annual rental income of more than 7 per cent, and a 5 per cent annual rise in the value of the property. Such returns beat most of the best investments in shares.

Of course, the detailed figures are more complicated and reflect all the hidden extras of buying a property. Experts say that the Association of Residential Agents (Arla) and the banks that offer buy-to-let mortgages are not warning investors about the costs of letting property. Nick Jopling, from Allsop & Co, says: "There should be a health warning on buy-to-let mortgages to make investors aware of issues such as voids (empty homes), management fees, maintenance costs and insurance. All this adds up to about 25 per cent of the investor's gross yield." (See box on costs.)

Gross yields vary from 8 to 10 per cent, depending on the location and type of property. Net returns are 5 to 7 per cent, enough to fund an interest-only mortgage of up to 80 per cent of the value of the property because interest rates are so low. Rates as low as 5.5 per cent are now available, a far cry from 8.5 per cent just a year ago, and banks and building societies are clamouring to lend on such properties.

In less than three years, banks and building societies have lent more than £1.7 billion through buy-to-let schemes. Only last week, the Halifax Building Society launched a scheme through its specialist mortgage lender HMSL. So, too, did Paragon Mortgages.

George Humphries runs the buy-to-let department of Hamptons International. "The total returns from buy-to-let are between 9 and 11 per cent, significantly higher than alternative investments. Housing seems a sensible option, and not just because of falling interest rates. The ratio between house prices and earnings now stands at about 3.3 per cent — in other words, the price of a house is roughly three times the annual salary. This should produce a sustainable relationship between house prices and average annual earnings."

Of course, such investments must be made with caution. As Malcolm Harrison, from Arla, says: "Buyers must be prudent in their choice of area and property. Don't base preference on personal taste, and it is important to contact a letting agent to discover if the area has a healthy letting market and what kind of properties are in demand."

The London Housing Federation estimates that 100,000 new homes are needed within London, which is good news if you have bought a home to let out. A shortage of affordable properties must eventually push prices and rental values up. The problem here is that agents have reported an oversupply of properties at the top end of the rental market in Central London but not enough in other parts of the city. Investors need to find those areas where there are shortages of rental property. Andrew Reeves, a letting agent, says that the London suburbs are a better bet for buy-to-let, or even further out to places such as Bromley and Beckenham, which have good communications with the West End and the City.

High returns depend on a buoyant lettings market, which itself is threatened if too many jump on the buy-to-let bandwagon. And ultimately, the ease of obtaining buying-to-let mortgages, may saturate the market and force letting values down. Grab your moment.

ALAN WELLER



Buy-to-let: James Barnes outside the three-bedroom, former council home he bought to let in Wandsworth, southwest London

CASE STUDY

JAMES BARNES, a [illegible] for Hamptons, [illegible] of the new group of investors who buy property to let. [illegible] writes.

Mr Barnes bought a 1930s former council property with three bedrooms in Wandsworth for £11[illegible],000. He rented out his current home when he was in the Armed Forces so he is not a newcomer to the buy-to-let market. "I chose Wandsworth because it is a capital growth area that will benefit from the redevelopment which has spread south of the river in recent years," he says.

Mr Barnes consulted a letting agent early on and intends to charge £1,200 a month in rent. He felt confident enough to turn down an offer of £1,100 per month.

He bought a property at the lower end of the price range with little renovation needed. Even so, he has spent more than three weeks redecorating and with mortgage repayments due next month, has yet to let the flat. In 15 to 20 years the investment should pay off. As Mr Barnes [illegible] a pension scheme.

● The Association of Residential Letting Agents [illegible]

James Barnes: his 1930s flat will become his pension scheme

Who pays the price of an empty property

People living near Britain's 750,000 empty homes are plagued by arson, vandalism, theft and drug abuse. The National Week of Action, organised by The Empty Homes Agency, started on Monday with publication of a survey which highlighted their distress.

These properties can also seriously reduce the value of the homes around them. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors says 10 per cent of the value of a house can be lost. Ashley Horsley, chief executive of the agency, says: "Empty homes are the real neighbours from hell. In the North of England the numbers constitute a ghost town of the size of Sheffield. London's is the same size as the entire housing stock of Haringey.

"All but two of the 42 councils we surveyed have received regular complaints about the problems of empty homes. Crime apart, there are environmental and health and safety problems, among them vermin, fly-tipping and dangerous structures. Empty homes can also be a death trap for children."

This week the agency will highlight the good use to which some of the organisations and individuals have put these houses, including examples from Bury, Leeds, Manchester and Sefton.

Mr Horsley says: "Through sale or rent they can be a valuable source of income to their owners, and they can provide an alternative to B&B accommodation for the homeless. Putting them to use can lift neighbourhoods."

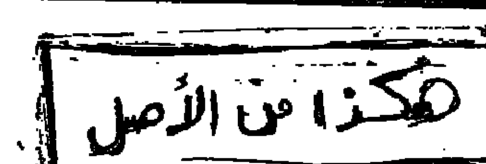
The action week started on Merseyside with the launch of a scheme by the Liverpool Housing Trust, which has worked with the city council and a private developer to transform a council estate. At the end of this week in Birmingham, the agency will name organisations and individuals across England which have contributed to keeping homes empty. Mr Horsely says: "It is a scandal that so many houses stand unused at a time when 100,000 are homeless each year."

BEN WAKEHAM

● *The Empty Homes Agency: 0171-828 6288*







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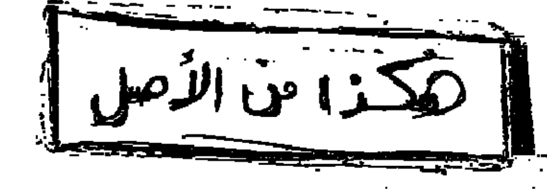
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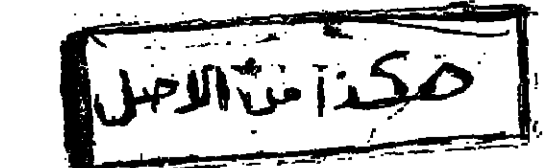
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THEATRE



Lionel Bart's Fings gets a timely revival

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OPERA

Saucy Semele — the ENO's new Handel



PAGE 43

VISUAL ART: A Cumbrian barn was the unlikely setting for Kurt Schwitters' final creation. **Richard Cork** reports

Pioneer's last wall and testament

Partially paralysed after two strokes, Kurt Schwitters was in no condition to embark on a big project in 1947. A lung haemorrhage warned him in July that his body should not be over-taxed. But the 60-year-old exile refused to give up.

With heroic obstinacy he started to transform the interior of a stone-walled barn in the Lake District. Sleeping most of each day in order to gain strength for a three-hour bout of intensive work, he stubbornly declared that the barn would become "the largest sculpture I have ever built".

Schwitters' tenacity may have been reinforced by the urge to compensate for the fate of his two previous building-sized works. The earliest, spreading through the rooms of a house in his native Hanover, had preoccupied him for 14 years during the interwar period. He called it the Merzbau, and surviving photographs suggest that its proliferating chambers were indeed his masterpiece. But the house was obliterated in a 1943 air raid, and Schwitters was further mortified by his inability to complete a second Merzbau in a studio in Norway. He had moved there in 1937, after the Nazis branded him as a "degenerate" artist and removed his work from museums. But the invasion of Norway in 1940 forced him to escape to England, leaving the unfinished Merzbau which children accidentally destroyed when playing with matches.

Schwitters found life arduous in wartime London. He settled there after a 17-month internment, mostly at a camp on the Isle of Man. A few English artists and critics recognised his stature as a European master of collage and a restless pioneer of multi-media experimentation. But when he moved to Ambleside in 1945 the ailing artist could easily have despaired of ever working on a grand scale again.

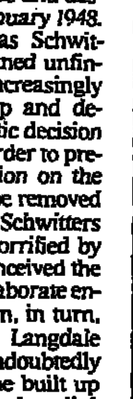
With admirable resilience, however, he refused to give up. Schwitters was used to deploying the humblest of scavenged materials, and even the most rudimentary building could ignite his imagination. So when he befriended the landscape architect Harry Pierce, who lived in the nearby village of Elterwater, Schwitters became excited by the prospect of renting a barn on Pierce's land. A well-timed $1,000 award from the Museum of Modern Art in New York enabled him to pay the annual rent of £52, and he started a construction on the barn's end wall.

Schwitters saw it as a three-year commitment to turn the whole interior into a cave-like work "better and more logical than anything I have ever done before". Within a few months, though, he became desperately weak. Travelling from Ambleside each day to labour in the winter chill of the barn, where water soon began to stream across the floor, defeated him. Delirious and destitute, he died in January 1948.

The Merzbarn, as Schwitters called it, remained unfinished and grew increasingly vulnerable to damp and decay. By 1963 a drastic decision was arrived at: in order to preserve the construction on the end wall, it would be removed from the barn. Schwitters would have been horrified by the idea. He had conceived the wall as part of an elaborate environment. The barn, in turn, inhabited a Great Langdale valley that had undoubtedly nourished him as he built up the organic forms on the relief.

But nobody seemed capable of protecting it, and none of the institutions approached by Pierce would take responsibility. Even the Tate declined to purchase it. The apathy seemed to bear out Schwitters' suspicion that "English people don't understand art at all".

Only Newcastle University, armed with some money for a sculpture commission, took advantage of the opportunity. Acting on the advice of Richard Hamilton, then a lecturer at Newcastle, it undertook the hazardous and costly task of moving the relief to the university's Hatton Gallery in 1965. The relief's safety was assured, and it has been preserved there ever since.



> ‘Friends recall how feverishly Schwitters worked at the barn’

But what meaning could this isolated wall have, wrenched from the Lakeland context that brought it into being? For many years the Hatton made scant effort to display this extraordinary fragment sensitively. Only now has a special exhibition been mounted, in collaboration with the new Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, to celebrate the Merzbarn and show some of Schwitters' other work.

The show ranges from early work in a Cubo-Expressionist idiom to later examples of his deft, inventive ability to use everyday detritus. The principal emphasis, though, rests on his 1940s work. He painted a lot in those difficult years, executing some naturalistic portraits often dismissed as potboilers. They are, in truth, sincere attempts to achieve a likeness.

But even the most affectionate portraits of his lover Edith Thomas seem tame compared with the vigour of his landscapes. Schwitters allies himself here with a German tradition extending back to Lovis Corinth's impulsive views of the Walchensee 20 years before. Despite limitations, Schwitters' landscapes convey the ardent energy of his response to the natural world.

In this respect, they enhance our understanding of the far more mysterious and original work carried out in the Merzbarn. As he grew older, Schwitters' link with city life evaporated. The interior of his Hanover house, the so-called Cathedral of Erotic Misery, had been filled with bristling, anxious references to the psychic turmoil of urban life. It could hardly be further removed from the gently swelling and meandering forms explored in his Merzbarn relief.



Off the wall: Kurt Schwitters' barn relief, now safely preserved in Newcastle's Hatton Gallery, but sadly divorced from the Lakeside landscape that nurtured the artist's imagination

Schwitters treated it as a resting-place for the weathered material he gathered from allotments, hedgerows and riverbeds. He admired Pierce's ability to nurture rare trees and shrubs on the estate surrounding the barn. "Pierce is a genius," Schwitters claimed, explaining that "he lets the weeds grow, yet by slight touches he transforms them into a composition as I create art out of rubbish".

Hence my sensation, when looking at the Merzbarn fragment, that the relief grows out of the wall. Although Schwitters was forced to abandon it, enough was achieved here to let us imagine how he might have elaborated the rest. Appreciating that time was running out, he must have decided to focus on the wall and hope that viewers would grasp his intentions elsewhere in the room.

Eyewitnesses recall how feverishly he worked, disregarding the cold, struggling on after dark by candlelight. Enough of the dry-stone wall remains visible to suggest that Schwitters respected its flinty presence, even as he covered its surface with a plaster skin. It became the seed-bed where a disparate array of found objects were planted.

Some are so buried that they have grown unrecognisable, bulging or thrusting outwards like natural outcrops of the land itself. Within the niches, though, other deposits are easy to identify. Some brown string, caked with paint, is curled up in one hollow like a serpent. Another is crammed with a mottled pebble, a pale lump of stone, a splinter of wood and the rusted sprinkler from a child's watering-can.

They look like offerings, part of some ancient ritual. The feeling that Schwitters aimed at honouring the fertility of nature is strengthened by accounts that he wanted to place, in the "window" of an internal wall, a plastic sculpture called *Chicken and Egg*. He also intended daylight to penetrate the cavernous chamber through a specially constructed aperture in the roof.

Any further attempt to analyse the Merzbarn is thwarted by the disastrous separation of the wall from its setting. However welcome the Hatton's show may be, it cannot in the end persuade me that the relief should stay there.

The rest of the barn still stands in its original location, and when I visited it in 1987 Schwitters' overall intentions there became easier to understand. He wrote excitedly that the Merzbarn "will stand close to nature, in the midst of a natural park". Until the relief is returned to its rightful site, the full extent of his valedictory struggle at Elterwater will remain tragically betrayed.

● Schwitters' Merzbarn *is at the Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University (0191-222 6059) until May 22*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

THE nun on the logo flicks a porno-star's wink, luring you into one of Bow's latest galleries: a medieval convent converted to artistic ends. Inside the symbolism is similarly conflicting. **Rachel Chapman** spreads an array of Petri dishes in a patchwork pattern across the floor. But her work does not offer the enfolding comfort of a quilt. Rather, amid a musty smell, she nurtures bacteria cultures like weird pets. Slowly, in an array of tantalising colours, they move towards their death.

In another room, **Tom Merry** creates a sculptural world stalked by the sort of monsters that children conjure up in the half-light of dreams. But **Torie Begg** has an altogether sharper intellectual aesthetic. An archive of a thousand bricks is gridded like library books along a wall, their surfaces lustred so beautifully you almost want to lick. The dark surfaces of the bricks are built up, glaze upon painstaking glaze, until they gleam with a uniformity which betrays individuality of intent. But the primary colours which dribble down the sides set off the darkness against a chromatic score, the deliberation against the freedom of the dribble. Perhaps it is time the Tate invested in a new set of bricks to test the boundaries of visitors' tastes.

183 Bow Rd, London E3 (0181-983 9737), open Fridays to Sundays until May 16

☐ "I'M FOR an art that explores the mystery and romance of existence," declares **Richard Cartwright**. He is one of those outsiders who have been left stranded by the tides of contemporary art. But he exults in such solitude, in the pain and the poignancy which it can convey. The single small figure becomes the still point of his turning world: the solitary sail of the tiny fishing boat, the single sheep grazing the darkened pasture, the lonesome man on the mountain road.

There is something quintessentially touching about these pastel paintings. Their Romantic spirit is not defined simply by such clichés as the burning sunset. There is a wistfulness from which it is hard to turn away.

John Martin, 38 Albemarle St, W1 (0171-499 1314), until May 15

☐ *IT SEEMS* a pity to try to explain the systems which construct **Keith Tyson**'s world. Part scientific, part artistic, part mechanistic, part organic, he creates a perplexing artistic realm among which visitors grope their way, bewildered. The imagination runs riot.

And yet the works are the product not of tangential creative processes, but of the technical instructions of an "Artmachine". Tyson is evasive about the nature of this object but apparently, when he wants to work, he dials in to gather data about what to do, then obeys proposals to the letter. Every piece of sculpture in this show — from a hallucinatory frieze of straw to a polythene wrapped doll, from a sculpture of spilt coffee beans to a plaster highrise block — obeys a system, follows a plan. It is fascinating to follow the trajectories, to search for sense, to manoeuvre one's way among co-ordinates of space and time.

Delfina, 50 Bermondsey St, SE1 (0171-357 6600), until May 2

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

History lessons in finest plastic

Sculptor Kenny Hunter casts the famous in a new light, **Andrew Gibbon Williams** writes

Monica Lewinsky was bound to surface in an art gallery. But who could have imagined her as a bookend, teamed with the terrorist Osama bin Laden? Such is her artistic fate at the hands of the sculptor Kenny Hunter. Cast in cream plastic, bizarre against the backdrop of Edinburgh's neo-gothic Portrait Gallery, Lewinsky has achieved the immortality of the museum.

Andy Warhol, of course, would have been Lewinsky's ideal portraitist. Warhol would have transformed her into a fluorescent icon, the latest addition to his pantheon of the glitzy and not-so-good. But in terms of her integrity as an artist's subject, Lewinsky is better off with Hunter. He is not an artist who simply trades on celebrity: image is manipulated to more profound effect.

Serving as his inspiration is that vast legacy of municipal monuments which clutters up our big cities. Hunter's native Edinburgh provides a rich library of posturing 19th-century stalwarts, mostly created by Sir John Steell. The best is his Wellington ("Iron Duke, in bronze, by Steell," as the local quip had it), which emanates in spades the haughty, official arrogance at which Hunter emits a loud raspberry.

But Glasgow, where Hunter attended art school, is richer in Victorian politicians, and it must have been statues like the fine Gladstone on George Square that fired the sculptor's magnificent sense of irony. In *New York 23/10/95*, Hunter undermines the status of that contemporary "liberal", Bill Clinton, with piercing acuity. Caught in a conspiratorial moment of chuckling bonhomie with Boris Yeltzin, the President is a tomato-red vision of casual corruption mounted, literally, on a pedestal.



Kenny Hunter's castings of Osama bin Laden and Monica Lewinsky as bookends would make an unusual and, at the same time, useful gift

But Hunter's Post-Modern critique is not always so explicit. *Military Figure*, a direct quote from the 1950s Commando Memorial in the Scottish Highlands, is an outsize Action Man, anonymous in balaclava, robbed of humanity by the dun-green plastic in which he is cast. He is as heroic as Barbie, as scary as My Little Pony.

Technically, these sculptures are more impressive than they at first appear. Plastic still means cheap and nasty, and the resemblance of the sculptures to toys out of a giant cornflake packet suggests mass production. But this is misleading. These works are modelled in clay, cast in plastic, worked over by hand in a manner as ancient as Praxiteles. They are Canova-smooth to guarantee purity of image and clarity of meaning. Evidence of personal expression is suppressed.

Paradoxically, though, Hunter is eager to express his aims in words. Fond of quoting the Czech-born writer Milan Kundera — "How sweet it would be to forget history" — he is fascinated by the symbiotic relationship between his art and its evolving historical context. As he puts it, "Each work appears as an open question, a homage to doubt."

● Kenny Hunter *at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh (0131-624 6300) until May 30*

■ LISTINGS

RSC's new Othello

ARTS

■ THEATRE

Whitehall's echoes of war



RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

THE TEMPEST: Nick Philippou dissects Shakespeare for Actors Touring Company, with help from modern technology and Rose English's androgynous Prospero. **Lyric Studio**, W6 (0181-741 8701). Opens tonight, 8pm. ⓢ

GREEK MYTHS: Continuing this mini-series focusing on Classical mythology, Richard Hickox conducts the City of London Sinfonia in Richard Strauss's *Metamorphosen* and *Morgen* set alongside Haydn's *Arianna a Naxos* and Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. ⓢ



Soprano Judith Howarth is soloist with the RLPO

EAT THE ENEMY: Ken McClymont directs a new Chris Lee play, described as a Groundhog Day on speed, where three diners must live through the same meal four times. **Old Red Lion** (0171-837 7816). Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

BASINGSTOKE: The first of the London Mozart Players' two concerts here tonight under Matthias Bamert (7.45pm) aims to show how Baroque music has influenced the 20th century. On offer are pieces by Purcell, Villa-Lobos, Mozart, Bach, Stravinsky and Nyman. For the second concert (9.45pm) soprano Christine Cairns joins the players in a world premiere by Ian Wilson, preceded by pieces by Britten and Alan Rawsthorne. **Anvil** (01256 844244). ⓢ

EDINBURGH: Start of the Scottish tour of Coma, a haunting work on dream states by Phelim McDermott and Lee Simpson's Improbable Theatre. **Traverse** (0131-228 1404). Tonight-Sun, 8pm. ⓢ

LIVERPOOL: The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates the 60th birthday of John McCabe with a concert featuring two of the Merseyside-born composer's best-known works: *Notturni ed Alba* his setting of medieval texts for soprano and orchestra, and the Concerto for Orchestra. With Judith Howarth as soloist. Adrian Leaper conducts. **Philharmonic Hall** (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm. ⓢ

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Ray Fearon, Zoe Waites and Richard McCabe play the leads in Michael Attenborough's production of Othello. **Royal Shakespeare Theatre** (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm. ⓢ

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

■ **MAMMA MIA!:** Enjoyable musical tells a tale of three fathers of a bride, to steer a barmy way through a torrent of Abba hits. Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs. **Prince Edward** (0171-447 5400)

□ **ESCAPE FROM PTERADACTYL ISLAND:** Award-winning American musical based on the genre of early sci-fi novels, with new rock'n'roll songs from Michael Jeffery. **Pleasance Theatre** (0171-609 1800).

□ **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER:** Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs. **Comedy Theatre** (0171-369 1731).

□ **MAKING NOISE QUIETLY:** Dominic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Co opens a London season with Robert Holman's trilogy of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war. Eleanor Bron heads the cast. See review, right. **Whitehall Theatre** (0171-369 1735.

□ **HAMLET:** Paul Rhys plays the prince in Laurence Boswell's production. With Donald Sumter as Claudius. **Young Vic** (0171-928 6363).

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. **Savoy** (0171-836 8888). ⓢ

□ **HUSHABYE MOUNTAIN:** Jonathan Harvey's bittersweet comedy about a relationship broken by Aids. Some scenes set in Heaven, where Judy Garland welcomes the dead partner. **Hampstead** (0171-722 9301). ⓢ

□ **THE DISPUTE:** Superb production by Neil Bartlett of his translation of Marivaux where four imprisoned adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time. **Lyric, W6** (0181-741 2311). ⓢ

□ **THE GARDEN OF HABUSTAN:** Besht Tellers performs Rebecca Wolman's play. Ancestral ghosts try to explain today's disputes between Palestinian and Israeli. **Tricycle** (0171-328 1000). ⓢ

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG): Oliver Parker's sumptuous homage to Wilde's ever-fashionable play is hijacked by Rupert Everett's madly charming Lord Goring. With Jeremy Northam and Cate Blanchett.

HAPPINESS (18): Poisonous but gripping black comedy about dismal urban attempts to find happiness. Todd Solondz's film walks an original, edgy line between fantastic humour and ghastly habits.

RETURN TO PARADISE (15): Joseph Ruben's crisis of conscience film is only a fitful suspense about two American buddies who face years in a Malaysian prison if they return to help their condemned buddy. With Vince Vaughn and Anne Heche.

PROMETHEUS (15): Tony Harrison's dense film-poem is a work of surreal genius and endless layers. Michael Feast is compelling as Zeus's flunky who looks at what we have achieved and destroyed with his stolen fire.

ACTRESSES (15): Three famous Catalonian stage actresses stir up old jealousies. Too stagey, too self-conscious, with the dramatic impetus of a slug. A static self-indulgent piece by Ventura Pons.

CURRENT

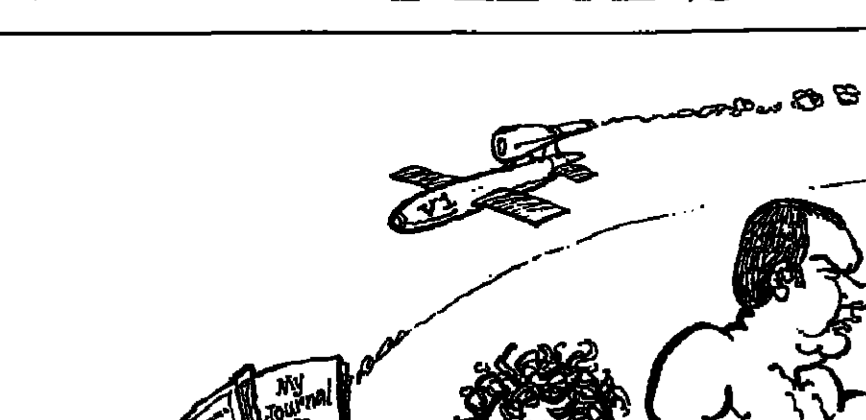
A CIVIL ACTION (15): Meaty courtroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparkling form as two sharks in a multi-million dollar case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.

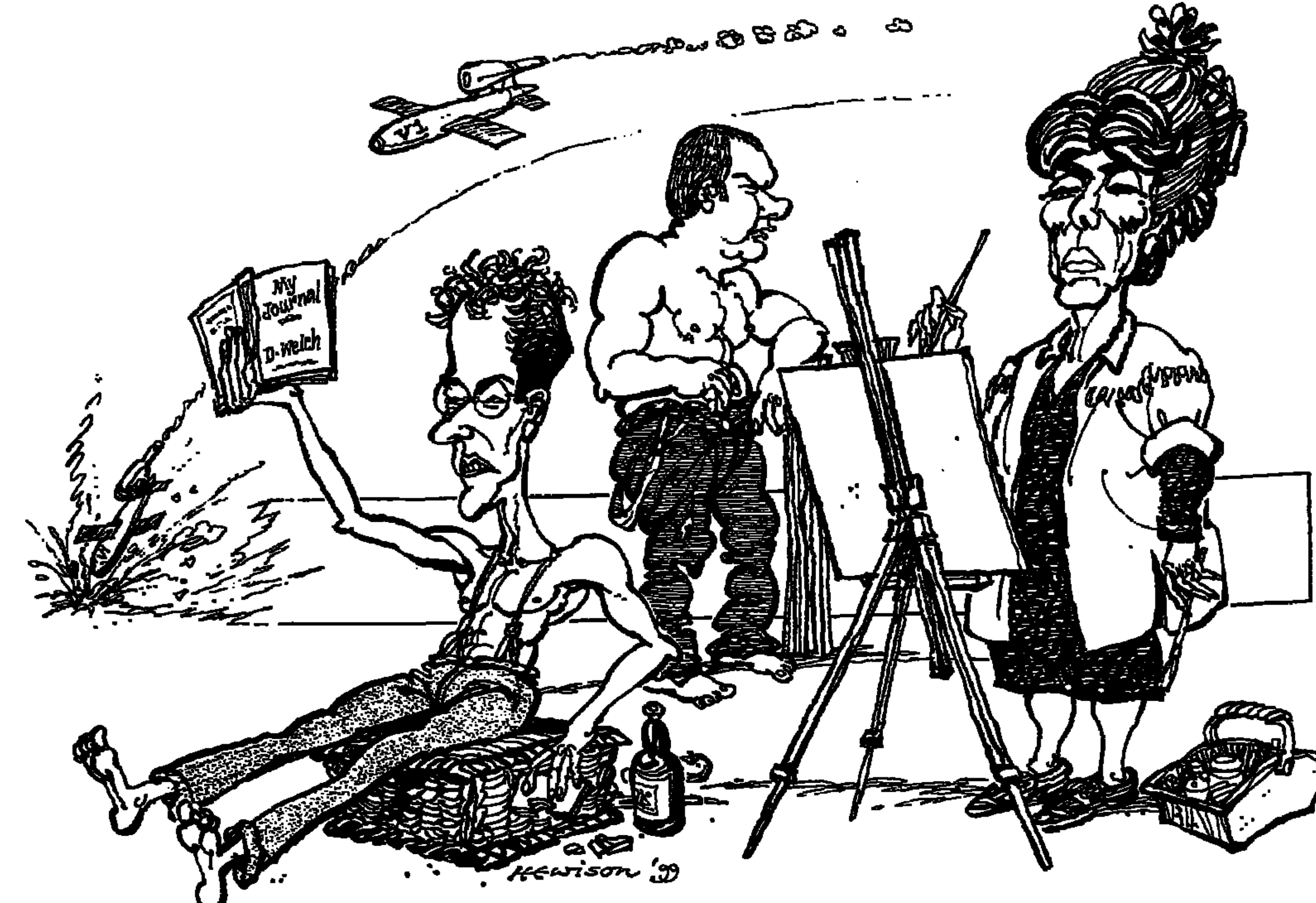
BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15): Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendidly miscast as a heterosexual New Age Svengali. Rose Troche directs.

THE FACULTY (15): Fishy sci-fi chiller with high comedy quota from Kevin Williamson, the scribe behind Scream. A faculty of schoolteachers get taken over by alien squids from outer space. Director Robert Rodriguez flogs the creeping paranoia with seat-clutching wit.

SLAM (15): Saul Williams puts in a sensational performance as a black rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Marc Levin.

HIGH ART (18): Ally Sheedy and Radha Mitchell spread lesbian gloom and doom in an upmarket photographic magazine. Drugs, decadence and Fassbinder fail to illuminate Lisa Cholodenko's constipated melodrama.





Peter Hanly, John Lloyd Fillingham and Eleanor Bron in Oxford Stage Company's timely revival of Robert Holman's *Making Noise Quietly*

Collaterally damaged

THEATRE

Making Noise Quietly
Whitehall

Walking down Whitehall after seeing Robert Holman's *Making Noise Quietly*, I passed Serb demonstrators blowing whistles and waving flags outside the Defence Ministry, and it struck me how weirdly opportune this revival is. When the Oxford Stage Company decided to launch a London season with a long-forgotten trilogy about the side-effects of war, it could hardly have foreseen that British bombs would be exploding in the Balkans on the day of its opening. Yet off they go — and who can say how odd and intricate their ultimate impact will be?

Drop a big, heavy object into a pond, and tiny ripples end up in unpredictable places. In Holman's view, it is the same with war. In *Being Friends*, which occurs in 1944, a conscientious objector decides to join the army, not because doodlebugs are landing near by but because he cannot forget seeing a badly tortured German die in a military hospital. In *Lost* a Yorkshire mother hears that the naval officer son who had rejected her has been killed in the Falklands. And, in the title-play, a German-Jewish businesswoman, once the victim of concentration camp sadism, warily befriends a veteran of the South Atlantic, an angry, bitter English private with his deeply disturbed stepson in tow.

The very name *Making Noise Quietly* sums up Holman's plays. They have always been unemphatic, unpretentious, yet resonant. From *German Skerries* in 1977 through *The Estuary* in 1980 to *Making Noise Quietly* in 1986, they have confounded mathematical logic by persuading you that less is more. Hitherto Holman has found his home on the fringe, never in the West End; so it is a surprise and, for me, a joy to find so representative a trio ensconced beneath Nelson's Column — and, in Deborah Bruce's sensitive production, implicitly reproaching that triumphal edifice.

There are obvious links between the plays. All their characters have been touched and in some sense transformed by violence and suffering. All would seem to communicate more deeply with strangers than with those who know them better. But I must admit that reacquaintance with the trilogy leaves me most enthusiastic about its first two-thirds. *Being Friends* is finely played by Peter Hanly and John Lloyd Fillingham, the one a young artist cheerfully unashamed of his homosexuality, the other a Quaker who surprises himself by baring his sexual secrets, his conscience and finally his body; and *Lost* boasts a marvellously unsentimental, moving performance from Eleanor Bron as a woman beneath whose defensive respectability and plodding clichés there's grief, bewilderment and fury at the dead son she must try to think of as a war hero.

Like many of his plays, *Lost* is set in Holman's native Teesside, which may be why it seems psychologically truer than *Making Noise Quietly*, in which Bron struggles to bring conviction to a Holocaust survivor earnestly trying to civilise a feral child and his almost equally troubled stepfather. Yet here too there is plenty of deft human observation, most strikingly in Fillingham's powerful portrayal of an inarticulate soldier who cannot stop himself taking out his self-hatred and rage on the pathetic boy he loves and who loves him. Here too Holman's distinctive qualities — that spare richness, that astringent abundance — leave us with drama quietly to relish.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Return to Bart land

Fings Ain't Wot They Used t'Be
Hornchurch

Lionel Bart was working with the Queen's Theatre on its revival of his 1959 musical comedy when he died earlier this month. No doubt he would have enjoyed seeing its spirited production, which certainly does its damndest to turn his rather ragged period piece into a right old knees-up.

Period it definitely is — dated, more like. This is a world in which bent comedy coppers are forever in pursuit of shifty old lags and tarts with hearts. The slim plot concerns small-time gangster Fred's attempt to turn his down-at-heel bar from a hang-out for hookers, hoodlums and has-beens into a sleek Sixties-style joint.

Quite rightly, the production team has gone to town on all this anachronistic excess. The foyer has been tricked out as a street scene, complete with pie-and-mash stalls. It all seems a bit confused: the play takes place in the Fifties, the centre-piece of the foyer is a VJ-Day celebration, and despite the very East End set, the setting is actually supposed to be in Soho.

Never mind: good, hokey fun, rather than anything so po-faced as authenticity, is what is needed here, and all this flummery makes for a festive atmosphere. So too does the curtain-raiser, in which a chorus enters doing the hokey-cokey and makes a great ruckus in the midst of the audience. The multitalented cast, who are also the band, likewise chase each other around the seats.

Their performances are rooted in panto, but then so are the characters. Steve Edwin is sound as the tough-but-vulnerable Fred; Phil Hearne is leery as the completely artless dodger Redhot, and Tony Hunt gets the martinet plod and monotone boom of the cloddish Sergeant Collins. In particularly good voice were Diana Croft as the put-upon barmaid Lily, and Liz Marsh and Nina Lucking as loveable tarts Betty and Rosey, squealing away *à la* Barbara Windsor (for it was our Babs who was the original Rosey). The star turn, though, is Carol Sloman as a raddled whore whose every painful step is an agonising odyssey. She had the audience in such hysterics that they drowned out much of the show. The cast are sweetly directed by Bob Carlton.

The piece itself has its moments, though in Frank Norman's wordy book many of them are drawn out far too long, especially in the protracted second half. But when Bart's bright, breezy songs take over, things bowl merrily enough along.

NIGEL CLIFF

Classic clown magic

Hackney Empire's Year of the Clown season got its first dose of the old silent magic from the hyperactive Catalonian Leandre. Promoting clowns must be a hideously difficult task. The very word evokes a cruel mish-mash of curmudgeonly old sods who have spent their life on the road with a moth-eaten animal show, or awful wacky New Age juggling types who escaped from Steiner school at the age of 14 but still believe children should be given the freedom to torture newts so long as they are expressing themselves. Leandre is none of the above; he is more like the beautiful building that you find after getting lost and then waste the rest of your life trying to get back to — the lost domain of the clown world.

Of course, he knows that we



Leandre
Hackney Empire

don't know what he is going to be like, so when he comes on stage with a mournful demeanour, and does a staid little mime with two suitcases and a questionmark stuck to his head, the laughter is polite. Eventually he rips off his questionmark and launches into full rapscallion mode and the relief is palpable.

Leandre skates through a whole catalogue of styles and characters but his enduring performance trait is to step ever-so-slightly over the line of accepted behaviour, doing the kind of things that we would all do if the rest of the world's back were turned: spitting from a great height and throwing bits of banana at people.

Of course, this being a post-Freudian show, Leandre is authentically puerile as opposed to kowtowing to accepted notions of childish behaviour: which means pee, poo and sex organs a-go-go. Interestingly, the episode when he seems to have crossed too far over the line metamorphoses into the most magical part of the show.

There are two more abstract elements of his performance that are worth commending. First, his rapport with the audience, which was extraordinary given that he was performing in a country where audiences are famous for being participation-phobic. And secondly, the absolute beauty of his movements, which were so smooth and beguiling that he often resembled one of those films of people taking their clothes off played backwards.

Although Leandre is eminently suitable for adults he is also family entertainment in the real sense: a show that you can take very bad-tempered 13-year-olds to and they might actually thank you afterwards.

HETTIE JUDAH

POP
Tom Petty returns in style

ARTS

CONCERTS
King's goes Russian

Heaven on earth with a satin doll

OPERA

Semele
Coliseum

Robert Carsen's staging of *Semele* was the last operatic throw of the old regime at the Aix festival in 1996. It would be difficult to think of a more sylish way in which to exit. ENO had the wit at the time to book it as a co-production and it arrives at the Coliseum very much as it was then, complete with the luscious Rosemary Joshua more secure than ever in the title role.

The first act is still a bit stodgy as Semele takes her time deciding between a royal marriage on earth and the luxuries Jupiter is offering in heaven. Once she sees that a little social climbing is within her grasp, with a possible move from mortal to god, everything changes. Handel stops writing an oratorio and opts for a bawdy comedy, reflecting the gimlet eye of Congreve's libretto for the follies and foibles of the day.

Carsen suggests in a series of delicately pointed stage jokes that nothing much has changed over the years. The royals have their weaknesses, chief of which are greed and lust, and the gods — or super-royals — suffer from just the same faults. According to Congreve the way of the gods was much the same as the way of the world.

Rosemary Joshua's Semele is a blonde tramp, whose only real asset is her body and whose only aims are endless pleasure, as she states in her Act I aria, and a seat among the planets. She spends much of the evening in fetching satin underwear, and at one point nothing at all, while she indulges Jupiter. The vocal flow is just as uninhibited, with silvery roulades tumbling out into the Coliseum. The Mirror aria, *Myself I shall adore*, was especially brilliant: Baby Doll meets one or two coloratura sopranos who had better not be named.

John Mark Ainsley plays Jupiter as a balding boss intent on having his piece on the side, not for the first or the last time to judge from the reactions of Juno (Susan Bickley, an all too recognisable regal figure in head scarf and welly boots). Jupiter may send Semele to her death when her demands become excessive, but before then he sings with great tenderness. Every phrase of *Where'er you walk*, taken very slowly and quietly, had the patrician shaping once given it by Heddle Nash.

The supporting cast is uniformly excellent, led by Sarah Connolly's warm-voiced Ino, sister of Semele, and just about the only sympathetic character in the piece. There are sharp impersonations from Iris Kelly as Juno's hobble-skirted secretary, the Miss Moneypenny of the spheres. Graeme Danby's Somnus is a pantaloon straight from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a sharp reminder that Britten's opera is the only other Carsen production seen at a major London house.

The ENO chorus, meticulously drilled by Carsen, revelled in Handel. So did the orchestra under the lithe hands of Harry Bicket. An overdose of stage champagne (courtesy of Canada Dry) induces the final bacchanale, most appropriately as Bacchus was the outcome of that Jupiter-Semele affair. The Coliseum has done Handel, and Congreve, proud.

JOHN HIGGINS

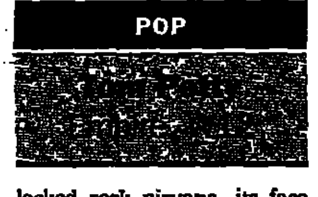
DONALD COOPER



A god can Handel the goods: Jupiter (John Mark Ainsley) is intent on making the earth move for Semele (Rosemary Joshua) before the affair turns less than heavenly

Petty-minded people

POP



You need rhino skin if you're gonna begin to walk through this world, sings Tom Petty on his new album with the Heartbreakers, *Echo*, released this week. In a 23-year recording career the band have developed just such a hide, the better to repel the somewhat malcontent reviews that have greeted the record in the UK.

Echo is the first album credited to the band in eight years, but the Heartbreakers have always been central to Petty's creativity. When he makes supposedly solo records, they play on them, which is a bit like taking the mother-in-law on holiday. The new set is accused of being rooted in some time-locked rock nirvana, its face set sternly against any whiff of contemporary influence. So what you see in Uncle Tom's rock'n'roll cabin is definitely what you get, and the fans who have stayed with him in an up-and-down British career got the chance to see at close quarters on Monday evening. The band's stock has taken a tumble here since the days when they could play five nights at Wembley Arena, as they did in 1992. But if the net result is the opportunity to see them in a club environment, and if Petty can continue to pocket Grammy awards for fun, then neither band nor audience will complain.

Thus we embarked on a 150-minute exploration of Petty's back pages, in a relaxed show that also borrowed a few leaves from other volumes. They started with Chuck Berry's *Around and Around*, and proceeded to pick up favourite old playthings like a child rummaging in a toybox.

The set list was a delightful join-the-dots of their own landmarks, such as *Breakdown*, *Runnin' Down A Dream* and the rarely-performed *Don't Do Me Like That*, and of those they have loved. J.J. Cale's *Call Me The Breeze* and the Everly Brothers' imprint of *Lucille* were among those in the Heartbreakers' jukebox, and an instrumental workout by lead guitarist Mike Campbell was still wet with the spray of Californian surf classics by the likes of the Chantays.

American Girl was delivered not with the nervous energy of the original but as an acoustic sketch, and for one of the encores Petty turned the ubiquitous *Gloria* into a story song. To say that they sometimes played a little too comfortably within their capabilities would be to miss the point of a band that feels no further need to justify itself by scrambling up unknown terrain.

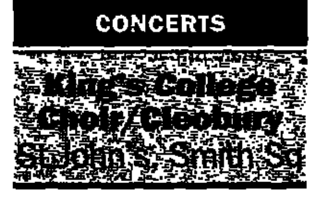
PAUL SEXTON

ANGELA LUBRANO

Happy to be rocking and rolling: Tom Petty at the Empire

Voices big in heart

CONCERTS



They were described as the choir of King's College, Cambridge, but surface details suggested impostors. No red cassocks or freshly-ironed surplices, just sombre black gowns and ties. None of that honey smeared over the notes by the chapel acoustic. And what were they singing? Rachmaninov's Vespers, if you please, written for the Russian Orthodox church in 1915, and largely based on traditional chants.

This is the King's choir in 1999, led into new musical terrain by the demands of fashion and the inquisitiveness of its current director, Stephen Cleobury. New Age minimalism and millennium fever have recently swept Rachmaninov's setting to popularity. The choir's recording company, EMI, felt the moment was ripe. In March came the CD. And here was the concert, in St John's, Smith Square, packed with choir buffs, the devout, the curious, and the parents of the heroic little boys struggling for an hour to clutch vocal scores half their size.

On top of that, they were singing in Russian. As the King's troupe moved up and down the 15 canticles' simple melodies, sparsely woven with parallel chords and bell-tolling phrases, no one could take them for a mature Russian choir, voices vast as the steppes, deep as the blood of a hundred oxen. But, loud or soft, they still produced a thrilling sound, sensitive to the nth degree, phrasing and breathing under awesome control. Trebles began like Anglican angels but soon warmed to their task. The basses even managed to pluck some kind of low B-flat from their boots for the end of the *Nunc dimittis*. By the end, performance fatigue was creeping in, but this was understandable.

Some Rachmaninov fatigue was also noticeable. Individual numbers in the Vespers radiate brilliance and intensity; but as a concert experience this music lacks structure and variety. Rachmaninov once said his idea of heaven was a place where his Prelude in C sharp minor was never played. On aural grounds it is a pity Rachmaninov's heaven also has a ban on counterpoint.

Here Thomas Tallis came to the rescue. For the King's men began the concert on familiar Tudor ground, weaving effortlessly through the polyphonic maze of his *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. It was pungent; it was lovely; it was short.

GEOFF BROWN

Storm over Sussex



Piano recitals are not what Glyndebourne has been famous for up to now, but things could change with the start of its new International Concert Series. Indeed, change is part of Nicholas Snowman's plan as General Director there, but this revolution is happening slowly: with the opera season just around the corner there are few free slots in the theatre's schedule.

But Mitsuko Uchida's recital on Sunday afternoon confirmed what an Alfred Brendel concert under the auspices of the Brighton Festival not long ago suggested: Glyndebourne's warm acoustics and intimacy make it a natural concert venue. With the piano placed over the covered orchestra pit, Uchida was in close contact with the audience, ideal for an artist of her sensitivity.

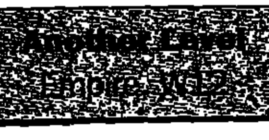
She opened her programme of late Beethoven and Schubert with the former's Six Bagatelles, Op 126, miniatures in which the composer is at his most unconventional. The first bars of the opening piece sang out lyrically before digressing wildly, and Uchida was responsive to each twist and turn: throughout the rest of the set she cut from quiet to stormy passages via lightning flashes of drama.

Her account of Beethoven's Sonata No 31 in A flat, Op 110, was equally wide-ranging. The opening had calm serenity, giving way to the rippling arpeggios that she dispatched with great delicacy. She built the work steadily towards its lofty finale, a fugue that thundered out organ-like only to lose its way and eventually return majestically, and pulled all the strands of its complex structure together.

Nothing could have shown better how Schubert is the poet to Beethoven's dramatist than her juxtaposition of both composers here: Schubert's Sonata in D, D 850, may be his most virtuosic and exuberant piano work, but it is also full of bucolic charm. Uchida caught all its freshness and played with unfettered vigour, especially in the dancing syncopations of the Scherzo. The airy finale had brilliant clarity, and the Scarlatti and Mozart encores that followed were played with featherweight delicacy.

JOHN ALLISON

London's likely lads



Another Level had no control over the events that conspired to make them the top turn in London last Saturday night, *Paul Sexton writes*. The DJ title bout between Fatboy Slim and Armand Van Helden fell victim to the Brixton bomb, while Paul Heaton of the Beautiful South, who always talks a good fight, was struck hoarse and unable to enter the ring at Wembley. But the improved billing for the London quartet was in keeping with their rapid rise through the card in the past 12 months.

With a hoard of hits in the locker since *Be Alone No More* made the first of two chart sorties in February last year, the group had rescheduled and upsized their debut British tour to accommodate ticket demand, and there was never a suggestion that they were fighting above their weight. As underlined by an audience dominated by pubescent girls, their success has been channelled through a series of polished home-grown R&B numbers with a good dollop of sex appeal to quicken the teenage pulse.

They entered to a stage layout reminiscent of that used by visiting champions Dru Hill a few weeks ago, with a seven-piece band doing sterling work in the shadows. Setting off with *I Want You For Myself*, their convincing vocals and harmonies evenly shared, they had the swagger of Lotharios, fashioned from the mould of such kings of the heartstrings as Boyz II Men and Keith Sweat.

But their Top 40 sensibilities are more upfront than those of such urban figureheads. Another Level came to the attention of pop crowds as the opening act on Janet Jackson's last European tour, and their keen ear for crossover was emphasised by the soul bubblegum of *Goody Goody*, due to feature on their second album later this year.

By then, they may well have a second chart-topper to display next to last summer's *Freak Me*. The well-connected group have the first single, Diane Warren's *From The Heart*, from the forthcoming Julia Roberts-Hugh Grant picture *Notting Hill*. It is a suitably romantic lead guaranteed approval from their fan base.

Be Alone No More closed the main set in singalong fashion, and after an unambitious encore version of Simply Red's *Holding Back The Years*, there was a sharper edge to *Summertime*, written for them by hip-hop notable TQ and due to launch them in the US next month. *Freak Me*, the bump'n'grind chart-topper appropriated from the Atlanta soulsters Silk, was triumphant. If Another Level can export London soul to the States, sales of nutty slack in Newcastle may yet be viable.



Rising stars in the arts firmament: JOHN WILSON

KATIE VANDYCK



Age: 26.

Profession: Conductor-arranger. Winner of the Tagore Gold Medal, the plum award at the Royal College of Music. He wears two hats this week, conducting his own Sinfonia of Westminster at St John's, Smith Square, tomorrow and leading his easy listening ensemble, the John Wilson Orchestra, in its regular slot at Kensington's Royal Garden Hotel on Saturday. He'll also conduct Richard Strauss's *Don Juan* at Kenwood this summer.

Not to mention the rave reviews for his recorded series of Eric Coates's works: Gateshead-born Wilson has been a Coates admirer since his teens. "It's real arrangers' music, a happy combination of orchestral sound and well-crafted melodies. There are very few composers who are unjustly neglected: when you listen to their music you realise why they are neglected. But Coates isn't one of them."

Who else has influenced him? The arranger Robert Farnon is a role model too; he often sends Wilson scores to perform. Nelson Riddle is up at the top of the list. "His string arrangement on Sinatra's version of *I Get Along Without You Very Well* is my favourite recording of all time. There's some wonderful contrapuntal writing in there."

Can we hear the JW Orchestra on record? Yes. The ensemble, which also plays regular dates at Pizza On The Park in Knightsbridge, has released its debut album, *This Is The John Wilson Orchestra*, on the Velvetone label. Singer Sarah Moule guests on vocals; other pieces are played as lush instrumentals.

So is he part of the so-called easy-listening boom? "It's a little too gimmicky for me. This whole area of music has gone astray. Now, thanks to CDs, we're able to sift the good stuff. I think light music should be given an evening at the Proms. It would sell out easily."

We're not talking kitsch, then? "No, you have to take the material seriously. I'm the world's biggest snob when it comes to choosing the orchestra that plays under me."

CLIVE DAVIS



Rodney Hobson introduces a four-page report on the UK awards for export, technological and environmental achievement

Battle cry as magnificent few fly flag

The Prince of Wales has launched a campaign to revive the Queen's industry awards in the wake of a slump in applications.

Only 765 companies applied this year for the Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement, the smallest total since the awards began in 1966.

Despite the disappointing fall in the number of applications, the quality of aspiring companies has held up well. The total of 101 winners out of 765 nominations, 13.2 per cent, is well above the usual success rate. Last year awards went to just under 11 per cent and in 1997 to only 7.8 per cent.

This year all the environment award winners have tasted success for the first time and 30 winners across the board had not applied before.

But all three categories registered the lowest level of interest to date. The 520 Export applications marked only the second time that the total for this category had slipped below 700.

The Technology tally at 163 was 44 fewer than last year, itself the previous low point. Nominations for Environment fell below 100 for the first time, compared with 240 applications when this section was introduced in 1993.

The Prince of Wales was asked by the Queen to chair a committee of business people and senior government officials to review the awards.

The awards, made each year on the Queen's birthday, April 21, were originally launched during a balance of payments crisis. There was also a new awareness of technological change. Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, spoke of the "white heat of technological revolution".

Applications built up to peak at 1,860 in 1978. On average, there have been about 1,000 applications for the export awards, 300 for technology and just under 150 for the environment. Roughly one applicant in ten succeeds.

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, announced just before Christmas that, at Buckingham Palace's suggestion, there should be a review of the scheme this year with any recommendations taking effect next year.

Roger Watson, secretary to the review committee, says: "The awards have been on something of a downward trend — technology because of the shrinking defence markets and exports because of the strong pound. The way forward may well be to broaden the environmental award beyond mere technological innovation to reward good environmental management.

"There is not enough awareness of the awards among consumers. Their real value at present is between business competitors. They need a higher profile."

The committee will make its recommendations in June. In the meantime companies can still express an interest in the year 2000 awards with the Queen's Awards office so that application forms can be sent out as soon as they are available.

This year, smaller companies in particular are still showing interest, reflecting the growth of the small business sector in the UK economy.

Crambeth Allen Publishing, which produces technical periodicals on steel making, refining and petrochemicals, has only eight employees. So does UK Project Support, a Norwich-based recruitment agency for the offshore oil and gas industry.

Brunton's Propellers and its 11-strong workforce at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, enjoy a technology award while Corney & Barrow (Broker Services), a wine broker, has a staff of 12, although it is part of a larger group.

Another encouraging sign is the increase in applications from the financial services sector. It forms a third of the export winners, twice the usual proportion.

There are two double award winners this time, Digital Engineering of Belfast, a computer company, and Snell & Wilcox, a broadcasting and telecoms manufacturer at Petersfield, Hampshire. Both win export and technology awards.



SILLY string and coloured hair do not win many awards, but GAC (UK) Ltd, based at Cwmbran in Wales, has won a Queen's export award by exporting the party spirit, *Christopher Warman writes*.

Aerosols of silly string, temporary hair-colour in the most eccentric of shades and glitter sprays are exported to more than 30 countries, accounting for 90 per cent of the company's £10 million turnover last year. By far the largest export market is the United States, followed by France and Germany.

GAC has more than doubled its production during the past three years and it expects a bumper year this year as people prepare for millennium parties. "We are having difficulty meeting demand," says Stefan Volcke Jr, marketing director of the parent company Goodmark. "At any given moment, a party is going on somewhere in the world. We provide people with products that can be used for any festive occasion, from Christmas and new year through to carnivals, birthdays and weddings."

More than 30 million cans of silly string were produced last year, enough to circle the globe 60 times.

Hi-tech approach to exports

Only two firms have won double awards this year. Digital Engineering, a telecoms equipment maker at Mallusk, Belfast, and Snell & Wilcox, broadcasting equipment specialist at Petersfield, Hampshire, both take an export and a technology award, and are now recognised as world leaders in their respective fields.

Digital Engineering, set up in 1983 by Aubrey Sayers, the managing director, with backing from Ledu, the Northern Ireland organisation that supports small businesses, has only 30 employees yet has more than trebled exports in the past three years. It makes equipment that telecoms companies can use to test or demonstrate their own products and to train staff. It won the technology award for a product that simulates ISDN high-quality telephone lines.

The Emutel ISDN simulator has been a big seller worldwide since it was introduced in 1993. There are five versions, ranging from the smallest, which can be used in exhibitions, to larger ones for use by manufacturers to test their products.

A new product, the Arcaplex, which enables users to split one high-capacity ISDN line into 15 low-capacity channels, has already brought a £2 million order from Austria.

Digital Engineering exports more than 80 per cent of its output. Caroline Scott, the sales and marketing executive, says: "Sales have held up well despite the strong pound and are growing strongly in Europe. We have 40 distributors in 30 countries and we are always looking for new markets."

Snell & Wilcox has now picked up eight awards over the past nine years. This time the technology accolade is for its Prefix product, which improves the quality of television pictures before they are transmitted.

David Cunningham, the marketing executive, says: "Prefix cleans up the picture by removing extraneous noise before the picture is compressed for transmission. The British have a reputation for being good at investing in technology only to have others exploit it. We like to think we do both."

The benefits of Prefix are not only better pictures but significant cost savings. Clean pictures occupy a narrower transmission band than dirty ones, and bandwidth is expensive.

Snell & Wilcox, established in 1974, now has a 500-strong workforce worldwide. Exports have grown by 81 per cent over the past three years.

Mr Cunningham says: "We have been studying digital television for 11 years so we already have products to address this rapidly emerging market. We have not been badly affected by the strong pound or the economic turmoil in Asia. Even if there is recession, people will still watch TV."

RODNEY HOBSON



Digital Engineering's Aubrey Sayers with one of the company's products

Help to fight superbugs

Tony Dawe on innovations from bacteria detection to asthma inhalers

Health scares caused by the *E. coli* bacteria and *Cryptosporidium* may be on the way out thanks to ChemScan, the world's first bacterial detection system to provide results within minutes rather than days. ChemScan, developed by the Technology Partnership of Royston, Hertfordshire, is capable of detecting a single cell of microbial contamination using a revolutionary method that needs no multiplication and incubation.

The breakthrough is one of several in the medical field to feature in this year's Queen's Awards for Technological Achievement, announced today.

Contamination of food and drinks by *Cryptosporidium* and *E. coli* can kill or cause severe illness yet, until the invention of ChemScan, both were detected mostly after people had fallen ill.

Dr Christopher Graeme-Barber, the firm's marketing director, says: "Samples would be taken when people went to their doctors with an upset stomach, but it would take days to get the results and discover if they were suffering from something more serious. ChemScan is a laser scanning system capable of finding within minutes a single living bacteria in a cup of liquid."

Innovations must achieve commercial success to win a Queen's award — ChemScan is now used by many British water companies and by food, drinks and drugs firms. It is expected to raise the purity of water and mass-produced food dramatically in the next millennium. The system has also been used in hospitals to check for cancer cells and viral infection.



The directors of Serck, Ian Dugan, David Woolley and Christopher Teed, inspect the exhaust-gas cooling system

Minnows and giants of the medical world are among other award winners. Immunodiagnostic Systems, which employs 27 staff in Tyne and Wear, gets a prize for the development of medical test kits for finding vitamin D in blood samples.

The immuno-separation process is faster and more sensitive than other methods. A hundred samples can be analysed in two days: using alternative methods, it will take three days to analyse a maximum of 24 samples. The absence of vitamin D can cause rickets, while the presence of the vitamin helps to stem bone loss from osteoporosis. Dr Roger Duggan, the company's managing director, says: "The kit is now our biggest-selling product. Vitamin D plays an important role in the absorption of calcium which leads to strong bones and teeth in children."

Glaxo Research and Development has invented a new method for delivering asthma drugs. Accuhaler is a multi-dose dry-powder inhaler. It delivers a precise dosage and, because it is easy to hold and use, is suitable for both children and arthritics.

Acordis Speciality Fibres of Coventry and ConvaTec Ltd of Deeside, Flintshire, share a joint award for developing AQUACEL Hydrofibre wound dressing. The dressing forms a gel which covers the surface of the wound by moulding itself over the contours, ensuring that the wound remains moist. The gel prevents the dressing from sticking to the wound and so makes removal less painful.

A further common theme among the technological awards are innovations which make contrasting forms of transport quicker, more efficient and environmentally friendly.

Brunton's Propellers of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, wins an award for a sailing boat propeller which alters its pitch to suit the conditions. The pitch of the blades, which can swivel through 360 degrees, is set solely by the action of hydrodynamic and centrifugal forces which reduce fuel consumption, engine noise and vibration and make the boat travel faster. Autoprop has been fitted to 2,500 vessels.

An exhaust-gas cooling system might not sound the most exciting of developments, but the product from Serck Heat Transfer of Birmingham deserves its award because it has already been fitted to many diesel-powered cars, making them cleaner and reducing both fuel consumption and emissions.

David Woolley, director of Serck's exhaust-gas cooling division, says: "We have had the satisfaction of seeing the system adopted by many of the world's leading manufacturers including BMW, Ford and Volkswagen. To date, half a million units have been installed and there has not been a single failure."

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT

Acordis Speciality Fibres, Coventry West Midlands: AQUACEL Hydrofibre wound dressing.

AirSense Technology Ltd, Hitchin, Hertfordshire: Stratos-HSSD incipient fire/smoke detection system.

ALSTOM Energy Ltd, Rugby, Warwickshire: Advanced 3-D steam turbine blading with improved efficiency for high power density applications.

Brunton's Propellers Ltd, Clacton-on-Sea: Autoprop automatic variable pitch marine propeller.

ConvaTec Ltd, Deeside, Flintshire: AQUACELHydrofibre



wound dressing (joint award with Acordis).

Digital Engineering Ltd, Mallusk, Belfast: Design/dev-elopment of ISDN central off-ice simulators that emulate different country variants of ISDN telecoms worldwide.

Glaxo Research and Development Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex: Diskus multidose dry powder inhaler.

Telecom Systems Division of Hewlett-Packard Ltd, South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland: HP acceSS7 — the standard for SS7-based network monitoring and datamining in telecoms.

Immunodiagnostic Systems Ltd, Boldon, Tyne & Wear: Determination of vitamin D in human serum & plasma.

Marathon Belting Ltd, Rochdale, Lancashire: COPSIL (a press compensating mat).

Exhaust Gas Cooling Division of Serck Heat Transfer Ltd, Birmingham: Exhaust gas cooler (for diesel emissions improvement).

Snell & Wilcox Ltd, Petersfield, Hampshire: MPEG compression pre-processor for high quality noise reduction/digital decoding of video signals.

The Technology Partnership plc, Royston, Hertfordshire: ChemScan RDI for microbial detection and identification.

Zeneca Agrochemicals, Haslemere, Surrey: AMISTAR fungicide.



Greeks offer inspiration

One of Northern Ireland's oldest companies has won the *Queen's Award for Export Achievement for the first* time, with a product inspired by the white marble quarried on the Greek island of Paros.

Established in 1857, Belleek Pottery of Co Fermanagh is a manufacturer of fine Parian china giftware, pictured left, and tableware that has seen significant export growth in recent years.

In 1993 Belleek reported export sales of £1.8 million as part of an overall turnover of £3.37 million. By 1998, export sales had risen to £4.08 million and turnover to £6.42 million. During that time the workforce has grown from 120 to 200.

Belleek Pottery, whose sister companies are Galway Irish Crystal and Aynsley China, exports Parian china worldwide, with key export markets including America, Canada, the Caribbean duty-free areas, France, Italy, Australia, the Middle East and Russia.

John Maguire, Belleek Group's managing director, says the company has invested considerable time and money in getting to know its export market customers and in responding to their specific needs with new product development. "The expansion of the group to include Galway Irish Crystal and Aynsley China has also brought us a wealth of additional export expertise," he says.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN



Boat prop saves fuel

AN ingenious boat propeller earns a technological achievement award for Brunton's Propellers of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, *one of the smallest* firms among the winners, with 11 employees. *Christopher Warman writes.*

The company has developed the Autoprop, an automatic variable pitch marine propeller which alters its pitch to suit the operating conditions of the vessel on which it is mounted.

The blade pitch is set by the action of the hydrodynamic and centrifugal forces to offer much higher efficiency over a wider range of operating speeds than can be achieved by conventional fixed propellers.

This action results in higher vessel speeds, reduced fuel consumption and lower emissions into the environment.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT

Aggreko UK Ltd — Manufacturing, Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire: Generators and oil-free air compressors.
Akos Healthcare Group Ltd, St Albans, Hertfordshire: International healthcare consultancy and contract services.
Allen & Overy, London: Legal services.
Beardow & Adams (Adhesives) Ltd, Milton Keynes: Hot melt adhesives.
Belleek Pottery Ltd, Belleek, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland: Parian china giftware.
British Aerospace Airbus, Filton, Bristol: Airbus airliner wing design and manufacture.
BUPA International, Brighton: Private medical insurance.
CRP Print & Packaging Ltd, Corby, Northamptonshire: Flexographic printing of packaging items.
Cambrian Consultants Ltd, Usk, Monmouthshire: Geoscience, engineering, training and software expertise to the oil and gas industry.
Cambridge Pharma Consultancy Ltd, Cambridge: International management consultancy to the pharmaceutical industry.
Caterpillar (UK) Ltd (Telehandler Division), Desford, Leicestershire: Telehandlers.
H. Charlesworth & Co Ltd t/a The Charlesworth Group, Huddersfield, Kirklees: Typesetting and printing of scientific journals.
Colortrac Ltd, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: Large-format digital colour scanners.
Compugraphics International Ltd, Glenrothes, Fife: Photomasks for the semiconductor industry.
Corney & Barrow (Broker Services) Ltd, London: Fine & rare wines.
Crambeth Allen Publishing, Craven Arms, Shropshire: Technical periodicals.
Crystalox Ltd, Wantage, Oxfordshire: Crystal growth equipment.
Data Connection Ltd, Enfield, Greater London: Communications and networking software products and software engineering services.
Digital Engineering Ltd, Mallusk, Belfast, Northern Ireland: Apparatus for developing and testing of telecommunications equipment.
Dorset Cereals Ltd, Dorchester, Dorset: Breakfast cereals.
Druck Ltd, Groby, Leicestershire: Electronic pressure measurement devices, pressure calibrators and aircraft ground support equipment.
Durham Associates Group Ltd, Castle Eden, Co Durham: Training in business administration.
Dytech Corporation Ltd, Sheffield: Catalysts and ceramic materials.
Edinburgh Business School, Edinburgh, Scotland: MBA distance learning courses.
Element Communications Ltd, Shaftesbury, Dorset: Sale of books and intellectual rights.
Elmar Services Ltd, Aberdeen, Scotland: Design, manufacture and rental of oilfield equipment.
Equisys plc, London: Zetafax corporate fax software.
EuroFinance Conferences Ltd, London: Conference, exhibition and training course organisers in international cash and treasury management.
Euromoney Publications plc, London: Financial publishers and conference organisers.
Evans & Sutherland Computer Ltd, Horsham, West Sussex: Visual flight simulators.
The Financial Times Ltd, London, Newspaper publishing and advertising.
Fine Fragrances & Cosmetics Ltd, Hampton, Richmond upon Thames, Greater London: Toiletries and cosmetics.
GAC (UK) Ltd, Cwmbran, Torfaen, Wales: Aerosols for parties, celebrations and decoration.



GE Aircraft Engine Services Ltd, London: Repair and overhaul of aircraft engines.
GEW (EC) Ltd, Redhill, Surrey: Ultraviolet curing equipment for printing machines.
Getty Connections Ltd, Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland: Cable assemblies and general equipment wire.
Glenmorangie plc, Broxburn, West Lothian, Scotland: Malt and blended Scotch whisky.
Güralp Systems Ltd, Aldermaston, West Berkshire: Seismometers.
H.D.A. Forgings Ltd, Redditch, Worcestershire: Specialist forgings.
Heatric, a Division of Meggitt (UK) Ltd, Poole, Dorset: Highly compact printed circuit heat exchangers (PCHEs).
Hill Price Davison Ltd, London: Computer software and services.
Holton Machinery Ltd, Bournemouth, Dorset: Holton Conform continuous rotary extrusion machines.
John Horsfall & Sons (Greetland) Ltd, Halifax, Calderdale: Airline blankets.
Huthwaite International, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Sales and management training consultancy.
Hydrovision Ltd, Dyce, Aberdeen, Scotland: Underwater remotely operated vehicles.
IAI International Ltd, London: Investment management.
Ilmor Engineering Ltd, Brixworth, Northamptonshire: CART and Formula One Mercedes-Benz racing engines.
Innovative Technology Ltd, Oldham, Lancs: Bank note validation equipment.
Innovative Tooling Solutions, a division of Forth Tool and Valve Ltd: Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland: Specialised machine tooling for controlled boring operations.
London City Airport Ltd, London: Airport services.
Lowe Refrigeration Company, Carryduff, Castlereagh, Northern Ireland: Rental and sale of refrigerated display and storage equipment.
M4 Data Ltd, Wells, Somerset: Data storage devices.
The Macallan Distillers Ltd, Craigellachie, Moray, Scotland: Highland malt Scotch whisky.
MacDuff Shellfish (Scotland) Ltd, MacDuff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland: Fresh and frozen shellfish.
McCormick Europe, Condiment Division, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland: Condiments and seasonings.
Motorola Ltd GSM Systems Division, Swindon, Wiltshire: Cellular radio telephone equipment.
Owen Mumford Ltd Medical Division, Woodstock, Oxfordshire: Sterile medical disposables for capillary blood sampling and delivery systems for self-administration of injectable pharmaceuticals.
Nikwax Ltd, Wadhurst, East Sussex: Waterproofing preparations for footwear, clothing, outdoor and equestrian equipment.
Norton Rose, London: Legal services.
Partridge Films, a division of HTV Ltd, Bristol, Avon: Natural history films.
Penny & Giles Drives Technology Ltd, Christchurch, Dorset: Electronic motor controllers for invalid wheelchairs and electric scooters.
Pilkington Micronics Ltd, Deeside, Flintshire, Wales: Processed glass for data storage and display.
Powder Systems Ltd, Liverpool, Merseyside: Pharmaceutical processing equipment, high containment and product protection systems for pharmaceuticals.
L.E.Pritchitt & Co Ltd t/a Pritchitt Foods, Bromley, Greater London: Dairy and dairy alternative products.
Rig Design Services Ltd, London: Engineering and design services.
Scherer DDS Ltd — Zydis Division, Swindon, Wiltshire: Fast dispersing tablets for prescription pharmaceuticals.
SciMAT Ltd, Swindon, Wiltshire: Battery separator components and filtration products.
Sea Air & Land Forwarding Ltd, London: General merchanting and freight forwarding.
Snell & Wilcox Ltd, Petersfield, Hampshire: Equipment for broadcast television studios, multimedia and telecommunications.
Software 2000 Ltd, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxfordshire: Computer software.
Sonardyne International Ltd, Yateley, Hampshire: Underwater acoustic navigation positioning and telemetry equipment.
Specialist Refractory Services Ltd, Riddings, Derbyshire: Refractory mould materials.
Stannah Stairlifts Ltd, Andover, Hampshire: Electrically powered stairlifts.
Charles F. Stead & Co Ltd, Leeds: High quality suede leather for the shoe trade.
Svitzer Ltd, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk: Seabed and sub-seabed surveys for the oil and gas and communications industries.
Technical Absorbents Ltd, Grimsby, Lincolnshire: Man-made superabsorbent fibre.
Thermatool Europe Ltd, Basingstoke, Hampshire: High-frequency welding and annealing equipment and high-speed shears.
Trans Euro plc, London: Global move management, worldwide corporate relocation services, fire-safe secure storage and freight forwarding.
UK Project Support Ltd, Norwich, Norfolk: Specialist technical contract personnel.
University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), Manchester: Research, teaching and technology transfer.
Walkers Shortbread Ltd, Aberlour-on-Spey, Moray, Scotland: Shortbread.
Woods Air Movement Ltd, Colchester, Essex: Mechanical ventilation equipment.

An airport is the surprise export winner on the day that the aircraft industry celebrates landing the top awards. **Tony Dawe** reports

How aviation soared to fresh heights



Reaching for the sky: British Aerospace has been rewarded for its work on the Airbus. Its exports have almost doubled over the past three years

Aviation companies feature prominently among the contrasting industries that have picked up prizes in the Queen's Awards for Export Achievement announced today.

Aircraft manufacturers, engine repairers and companies providing comfort for passengers and essential instruments for the planes are all recognised, but the most surprising export winner is an airport.

Noise restrictions, the lack of rail links and the initial sluggish pace of Docklands development all helped London City Airport to run up huge losses in its first years. Today it is booming with a dozen European airlines serving a score of destinations. International carriers, including Air France, Alitalia and Lufthansa, fly into the Docklands airport bringing passengers who spend money in its shops and cafés and on travel in the capital.

"With more than half of the passengers travelling via London City being resident in Europe, we have created a significantly increased contribution to the UK's invisible earnings," says Richard Gooding, the airport's managing director. "These awards are not given lightly and to be the first airport to win one is a great achievement."

A more predictable winner is British Aerospace for its work on the Airbus, the most successful European co-operation in building passenger planes. The Airbus began life as a twin-engined aircraft with limited range, but a series of models is now being built, including the four-engined A340-500 with a range of 9,000 miles. Exports have almost doubled over the past three years and the company is also studying a Superjumbo capable of carrying up to 650 passengers.

> 'To be the first airport to win is a great honour'

The 2,000th Airbus will be completed shortly. British Aerospace has made the wings for all of them, employing 7,500 directly, although a total of 62,000 people are involved in the project throughout the UK.

The award for export achievement also goes to a company that overhauls aircraft engines for more than 70 airlines. Based in Nantgarw, South Wales, GE Aircraft Engine Services has boomed since it was bought from British Airways by General Electric, the American engine manufacturer. The company has trebled the number of airlines it serves and exports have doubled, reaching £275 million — more than 40 per cent of all revenues, last year.

James Barrett, the deputy chairman, says that while BA remains its largest customer, the Queen's Award provides national recognition for "making this a global business with global reach".

Passenger safety might be the company's main concern, but passenger comfort is the prime reason for the success of John Horsfall & Sons of Halifax, which wins the award for the second year running. The company, founded in 1863 to make blankets, carried on business successfully until the 1970s when the popularity of duvets undermined the market. It moved on to providing blankets for the airline industry.

"The airline business has grown until it has become the most important for us," says Peter Benson, the managing director.

"We make everything from a very economic flame-retardant mod-acrylic blanket to the most luxurious lambswool ones, as well as headrests, pillows and duvets for first-class sleeping cabins."

Completing the list of aviation winners is Druck of Groby, Leicestershire, that makes products ranging from pressure sensors through to sophisticated aircraft ground-support equipment.

The company exports to more than 60 countries and has won important contracts from the US Army and Navy for test sets used to calibrate aircraft instruments such as altimeters.

Helping industry to clean up

The entry rules for the Queen's Awards for Environmental Achievement stipulate that the applicants' products must offer significant benefits in environmental terms compared with those already in existence, *writes John Young*.

They must also be shown to be commercially successful and to address the cause of a particular environmental problem rather than its effect.

A good example is provided by the Jesse Brough Metals Group, of Hixon, Staffordshire, which has led the way in searching for ways of recycling the furnace waste from aluminium production.

Every year the world produces some 3.5 million tonnes of so-called white dross and 850,000 tonnes of black dross, which is either consigned to slagheaps or used for landfill.

In close collaboration with Mechatherm International, also based in Staffordshire, the company has developed the technology to separate metallic oxide products from the dross, so that they can be reused in steelmaking and ceramics.

Exotherm Products of Cardiff receives an award for the development of Insul-Watt, described as the biggest breakthrough in plastic heater technology for half a century. The company was established in 1982 to develop energy-efficient electric heaters for melting plastic polymer feed to moulding machines.

The reduction in power achieved by the use of Insul-Watt heater bands produces average cost savings of 45 per cent, enabling users to recover their investment within a year.

ICI's Synetix business was formed last year by the merger of three of its branches with the catalyst businesses of Crossfield and Unichema purchased from Unilever. The headquarters are at Billingham, Cleveland.

It wins an award for the development of its HYDECAT process for treating waste sodium hypochlorite, a by-product of chlorine use or manufacture. Waste treatment produces sodium hypochlorite, a toxin which the HYDECAT catalyst converts into a salt solution and oxygen. No chemicals are needed, and the threat to the environment is eliminated.

Esmil Process Systems, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, wins an award for the development of a wood pulp effluent and water recovery system which eliminates all discharges.

The system recovers all suspended and dissolved solids in the form of a dry "cake" which can be fed as fuel into a boiler, while the liquid is purified for re-use in the manufacturing process.

The fifth award goes to Zeneca Metal Extraction Products, of Blackley, Manchester, for the development of a new magnesium-based process used to manufacture a chemical for extracting copper from waste ore.

The new technology is claimed to reduce effluent components by some 85 per cent.

QUEEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Jesse Brough Metals Group, Hixon, Staffordshire: recycling of furnace waste.

Esmil Process Systems Ltd, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire: zero discharge wood pulp effluent and water recovery system.

Exotherm Products Ltd, Cardiff: energy-efficient electrical heaters.

Synetix (member of the ICI Group), Billingham, Cleveland: HYDECAT, a fixed bed catalytic destruction technology for waste sodium hypochlorite.

Zeneca Metal Extraction Products, Blackley, Manchester: novel magnesium-based process used in the manufacture of copper mining chemical.

Homecare gets a lift

Amanda Loose reports on the medical-products firms that help patients to help themselves

The worldwide trend towards encouraging patients to treat their own illnesses outside hospitals by managing their own medication, is being made easier — thanks to companies such as Owen Mumford Medical Division, based in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, winner of its first Queen's Award.

The company specialises in the design, development and manufacture of small medical devices and disposables for diagnostic testing, blood sampling and self-injection of pharmaceuticals. These are used in institutions, but can also help patients to monitor and treat their conditions at home.

John Webb, the sales director, says: "More and more patients are managing their own medication in their own homes and the manufacture of devices used for self-injection of pharmaceutical products, such as insulin, is a growing area.

"This situation is typified by diabetics, but more new drugs are coming out that are usable in a home environment, such as growth hormones which are administered to children suffering from a growth disorder."

The company markets the products worldwide under its own brands and works with pharmaceutical companies to develop devices for specific needs. Its exports have doubled over the past three years.

Scherer DDS's Zydis Division, part of the R P Scherer group, has won its first award. Based in Swindon, Wiltshire, with a staff of 340, it contracts, develops and manufactures fast-dissolving oral base tablets for pharmaceutical clients, including Glaxo.

Dr Richard Yarwood, the managing director, says: "There has been substantial growth in this market. The tablets are convenient and accurate. It is a dosage form that has applications for children and for older people who may be taking several drugs and have difficulty swallowing."

Almost all its business is for export, and the combined earnings of product sales and development projects have more than doubled over three years. Its main markets are in America and Western Europe.


On the rise: Stannah Stairlifts is celebrating its third award

Technical Absorbents has also won its first Queen's Award, after receiving the Humberside Exporter of the Year Award last year. This company, established in 1994, is based near Grimsby and employs 20 people. Technical Absorbants Ltd has doubled its exports over the past three years.

It manufactures Oasis Fibre Superabsorbent, which has a wide variety of applications, from health and hygiene uses, to the cable industry and food packaging. Oasis is designed to absorb and retain large amounts of liquids. It will take in up to 50 times its own weight in water, locking the liquid into the fibre so it is dry to touch.

Richard Heath, the sales and marketing director, says: "We sell this fibre for use in a range of hygiene applications, from adult incontinence to medical dressings. Bandages need to be changed less frequently, reducing disturbances to the wound and also reducing costs."

Oasis fibre is also used in food packaging, for example the soaker pads at the bottom of sealed plastic trays containing fresh meat or poultry. The fibre boosts the pad's absorbancy, says Mr Heath, locking in the liquid and so improving the hygiene and the presentation of the product.

Stannah Stairlifts, based in Andover, Hampshire, is a veteran of the Queen's Awards, winning its third this year. The company, part of Stannah Family Holdings, has increased its exports by almost £11 million over the past six years and has established 12 new markets.

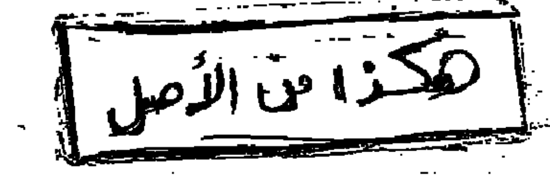
Brian Stannah, the chairman of the parent company and a director of Stannah Stairlifts, is delighted with its win, as markets around the world become increasingly aware that more people are living longer and are being cared for in their own homes.

"Continued product development and focusing on the needs of our customers have been crucial," he says. "However, sales volumes and distributor loyalty have been seriously affected by the high value of sterling. It is difficult to maintain successful exports with the high pound. Distributor loyalties are being seriously affected."

BUPA International, part of the BUPA Group, based in Brighton, West Sussex, has also received a Queen's Award.

Founded more than 25 years ago, it is the UK market leader in international private medical insurance, and now has members in 180 countries.

BUPA International gives customers a choice of cover based on their circumstances, and the opportunity to decide the country and the hospitals in which they are treated.



Drink a toast to a tartan success story

Scotland's food and drink producers have done the nation proud, writes John Young

There is a distinctly Scottish flavour to this year's awards in the food and drink sector, with four of the six winners coming from north of the border.

Nestling among the famous Speyside distilleries is a bakery established by Joseph Walker just over 100 years ago to serve the needs of the village, which has since grown to be the country's leading manufacturer of shortbread.

Although it is still jointly run as a family business by the founder's three grandchildren, James, Joseph and Marjorie, it employs about 600 staff and exports nearly half its annual output of some 10,000 tonnes to more than 60 countries, including America, Australia, France, Chile and Russia.

This is its third export award, following successes in 1984 and 1988. "It is a reflection on everyone in the company from the shop floor up, and we think it is rather special because it is rare for a bakery to win an award twice, let alone three times," says James Walker.

> Shellfish from Scots waters go to Spain, France and Portugal

The firm also markets a range of Duchy Original biscuits made from organic wheat and oats harvested on the Prince of Wales's Home Farm at Highgrove.

Another family firm, MacDuff Shellfish, of Aberdeenshire, wins an award for the first time. Exports from its two factories, both of which have won awards from the Sea Fish Industry Authority, have more than doubled in the past three years.

Its main markets are France and, increasingly, Portugal, Spain and Germany. Principal products are langoustines, scallops and crabs, all caught in local waters and supplied to supermarkets, wholesale groups and specialist traders. "Selling to the French has been quite difficult," says John Beaton, the managing director.

One of the two English companies on the prize list is Dorset Cereals, of Dorchester, which is winning an award for the first time. Founded only ten years ago, the company exports high-fibre breakfast foods and mueslis to 47 countries in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, North America and the Caribbean, in total accounting for half its sales.

It has exhibited at international food fairs in London, Germany and Russia, and works with the Department and Trade and Industry to promote language learning for businessmen.

Scotch whisky has long been a significant contributor to Britain's export trade, and two of the best known malts are included in this year's awards.

The Macallan Distillers, of Craigellachie, Bannfshire, has been honoured for the fourth time. Between August 1996 and August 1998 exports rose from 54 per cent to 61 per cent of total turnover, despite intense competition in the luxury market.

Glenmorangie plc, of West Lothian, which exports to more than 100 countries, wins its first award.

Although Britain is not yet a significant producer of wine, the well-established merchants Corney & Barrow, in the City of London, have won a second successive export award as a broker of fine and rare wines imported mainly from France and sold on to other countries.

Much of the wine comes from private customers' reserves which have been stored in the firm's cellars since they were first shipped.



STUART CONWAY

First-time award winner for exports: Glenmorangie chairman Geoffrey Maddrell has a celebratory dram inside the company's warehouse bottling plant in Broxburn, Scotland

Worldwide demand for English law and courts boosts invisible exports

London's importance as an international financial and legal centre has helped two large City law firms to win awards for exports. They are Allen & Overy with more than 1,500 staff and Norton Rose with about 1,200.

In the past ten years several London law firms, like their foreign counterparts, have become more internationally minded and there are now half a dozen leading British firms that practise all over the world.

Allen & Overy has 20 offices that practise local law in many countries, but Bill Tudor John, the senior partner, says: "British invisible exports, of which law is one, are an important earner for the country and law firms are quite significant contributors to export earnings. English law has become a highly exportable product. Many international contracts between foreign partners will specify English law and English courts because there is an enormous respect for the impartiality of our judiciary."

Mr Tudor John adds: "We doubled the size of our firm in the past five years and that growth has been mainly overseas.

"When I took over as head of the firm in 1994 only 7 per cent of our people were based outside the UK. Now it is 34 per cent and within a short time, probably two years, more than half our lawyers will be based abroad."

Formed in 1930, Allen & Overy provides legal advice to businesses, financial institutions, governments and individuals on banking, corporate matters, international capital markets, litigation, tax, employment and pensions.

Export earnings come from all over the world, but the biggest markets are where the financial centres are: in Europe, North America and Asia.

Allen & Overy has been advising financial institutions on their preparations for European economic and monetary union.

Mr Tudor John says European monetary union will bring more export gains for British law firms even while the country stays outside the system. He believes it will encourage cross-border mergers and acquisitions, an area in which British law firms have experience and expertise. In anticipation, Allen & Overy plans to expand its presence in Paris and Frankfurt.

Norton Rose has been trading for more than 200 years and acts for international groups including sovereign states, banks and other financial institutions.

Senior partner David Lewis says: "This award comes at the end of a record year in which we have opened three new offices in Athens, Prague and Bangkok.

"We have always had a strong international client base. However, the rate at which our international work has grown recently is staggering. Over the last three years our London office has more than doubled the value of work conducted outside the UK. This work now represents more than 40 per cent of its business."

Work includes advising on shipping, oil and gas financing, cargo claims, aircraft leasing, project finance, privatisation, cross-border mergers, property and international tax issues.

Recent achievements include advising Texas Utilities in defeating US rival PacifiCorp in the bidding war for The Energy Group, the UK utility; privatisation of the Romanian shipping industry; and the Bang Po power project in Thailand.

RODNEY HOBSON

12,301 down and we are still counting

Here, exclusive to *The Times*, are the finishers in the 1999 Flora London Marathon. The information is provided by EDS, official suppliers of computers to the race, and today includes all those who ran between 3hr 41min and 4hr 4min. Names and times of other finishers will be published later this week.



Costume drama: runners from the Portsmouth Joggers Club become superheroes for the day as they tackle the Marathon

7007—M Reardon 3:41:01; K Williams 3:41:01; J Drummond 3:41:02; K Hall 3:41:03; J Wittrock 3:41:04; M Cunliffe 3:41:04; R Jones 3:41:04; N Clemo 3:41:04; T Martin 3:41:04; M Gilbert 3:41:04; G Bratton 3:41:05; M Shellard 3:41:05; P Turner 3:41:05; E Fox 3:41:05; H Schnier 3:41:06; S Cummins 3:41:06; G Aren 3:41:07; P Robinson 3:41:07; A Dobson 3:41:07; Y Malischke 3:41:08; J Tyler 3:41:08; M Grant 3:41:08; M Andrews 3:41:08; C Gregory 3:41:09; P David 3:41:09; O Hill 3:41:10; J Vanlieshout 3:41:10; R Barnes 3:41:11; M Beer 3:41:11; W Denning 3:41:11; C Slator 3:41:12; P Clarke 3:41:12; R Smith 3:41:12; N Patrick 3:41:12; N Tilley 3:41:13; T Pannequin 3:41:14; S Walker 3:41:14; K Roberts 3:41:14; J Powell 3:41:14; D Salter 3:41:15; D Feast 3:41:15; R Streatfield 3:41:15; S Grose 3:41:15; D Clover 3:41:15; B Jordan 3:41:15; J Chappell 3:41:16; L Thorne 3:41:16; D Makin 3:41:16; A Kitous 3:41:17; K Mccausland 3:41:17; K Sharp 3:41:17; A Bremner 3:41:18; S Fletsher 3:41:18; F Smith 3:41:18; T Bast 3:41:19; J Birt 3:41:19; S Adams 3:41:19; A Warne 3:41:20; C Dennis 3:41:20; A Hurst 3:41:21; D Blower 3:41:21; W Kreisel 3:41:21; ...

... 3:42:50; I Ball 3:42:50; K Quine 3:42:51; N Griffiths 3:42:51; B Mccarthy 3:42:52; D Kime 3:42:52; R Sowerby 3:42:52; A Nightingale 3:42:52; A Sparrow 3:42:52; C Mitchell 3:42:53; G Morgan 3:42:53; P Taylor 3:42:53; M Ward 3:42:54; P Nyland 3:42:54; K Newton 3:42:54; M Richmond 3:42:54; M Stewart 3:42:54; W Davies 3:42:54; P Krause 3:42:55; N Warner 3:42:55; S Nolan 3:42:55; A Forster 3:42:55; S Watson 3:42:55; B Short 3:42:55; A Foster 3:42:56; R Collom 3:42:56; N Nepean 3:42:56; P Down 3:42:56; A Donald 3:42:56; D Lloyd 3:42:56; A Pattison 3:42:56; J Poynton 3:42:56.

7401—R Hill 3:42:56; A Brown 3:42:57; C Henderson 3:42:57; J Daly 3:42:57; P Fick 3:42:57; G Tait 3:42:58; M Jones 3:42:58; G Wreghitt 3:42:59; R Brumby 3:42:59; C Bowen 3:42:59; R Woodrow 3:43:00; J Daniels 3:43:00; M Crosswell 3:43:00; M Simpson 3:43:01; J Keeble 3:43:01; H Baumann 3:43:01; G Bradley 3:43:01; A Head 3:43:02; I Swanson 3:43:02; D Fairbridge 3:43:02; H Lomas 3:43:03; U Herrlinger 3:43:03; C Burbidge 3:43:03; K Moss 3:43:03; A Davidson 3:43:03; G Sansome 3:43:03; S Moore 3:43:04; J Lea 3:43:04; S Reed ...

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FLORA LONDON MARATHON

R Dunn 3:52:42; G Spicken 3:52:42; G Orford 3:52:42; D Rushton 3:52:42; K Board 3:52:43; J Fedigan 3:52:43; C Edgley 3:52:43; L Scott 3:52:43; S Dolan 3:52:43; D Pike 3:52:44; M Miller 3:52:44; N Wood 3:52:44; S Wadsworth 3:52:44; N Wilders 3:52:45; F Barton 3:52:45; J Day 3:52:45; A Clark 3:52:45; G Purdy 3:52:45; C Obrien 3:52:45; E Lister 3:52:46; K Windle 3:52:46; T Joy 3:52:46; J Walton 3:52:46; W Hollenkamp 3:52:46; T Coutts 3:52:47; G Pascoe 3:52:47; A Crane 3:52:47; R Sutton 3:52:47; A Mazzola 3:52:48; D Metais 3:52:49; D Fazackerley 3:52:49; C Bassford 3:52:49; K Brown 3:52:50; M Nasr 3:52:50; B Browning 3:52:50; S Blackmore 3:52:50; R Sola 3:52:50; W Laliberte 3:52:50; P Charpentier 3:52:51; N Large 3:52:51; M Cashin 3:52:51; J Crapper 3:52:51; R Stevens 3:52:52; S Foster 3:52:52; A Tristram 3:52:52; J Chevre 3:52:53; T Greenslade 3:52:53; P Seiffert 3:52:53; P Easto 3:52:53; C Macek 3:52:53; B Bertolo 3:52:53; G Miller 3:52:54; S Wain 3:52:54; E Andrew 3:52:55.

9601—J Doig 3:52:55; G Clement 3:52:55; T Milner 3:52:55; J Noiseux 3:52:56; R Spinks 3:52:56; J Keeble 3:52:56; D Dark 3:52:56; T Tierney 3:52:56; W Haenen 3:52:56; J Ingelaere 3:52:57; M Ray 3:52:57; A Mcghee 3:52:57; I Carli 3:52:57; A Traca 3:52:57; L Rayman 3:52:57; C Laflandra ...

... 3:54:26; A Moss 3:54:27; E Pichon 3:54:27; T Gasper 3:54:27; B Porter 3:54:27; R Thornley 3:54:27; M Ryan 3:54:27; S Partridge 3:54:28; C Crosby 3:54:29; O Haslam 3:54:29; N Rees 3:54:30; H Dougall 3:54:31; T Butterworth 3:54:31; T Dedman 3:54:31; A Snellgrove 3:54:32; F Croce 3:54:32; M Scott 3:54:33; W Fregin 3:54:33; R Ockenden 3:54:33; B French 3:54:33; M Fisher 3:54:33; C Hemmings 3:54:34; K Fox 3:54:34; B Griffin 3:54:34; M Jefford 3:54:35; C Wilson 3:54:35; A Nevill 3:54:35; M Keeys 3:54:35; Q Naylor 3:54:35; G Clarke 3:54:35; A Gibbs 3:54:36; A Creasey 3:54:36; C Timmis 3:54:36; R Care 3:54:36; P Currie 3:54:36; N Rees 3:54:37; D Herbert 3:54:37; H Tranter 3:54:37; E Martin 3:54:37; R Haddow 3:54:37; L Van Coppenolle 3:54:37; N Low 3:54:38; W Bortot 3:54:38; D Rammell 3:54:38; S Green 3:54:38; E Bishop 3:54:38; J Franzmann 3:54:38; M Tyler 3:54:39; A Watson 3:54:39; P Mcsparron 3:54:39; C Oleary 3:54:39; G Welch 3:54:40; M Gordon 3:54:40; J Hill 3:54:41.

10001—R Baldwin 3:54:41; A Finney 3:54:41; R Steen-nilsen 3:54:41; S Crabb 3:54:42; V Sercombe 3:54:42; S Williams 3:54:42; G Stevenson 3:54:43; E Johnson 3:54:43; G Smith 3:54:43; T Mccarthy 3:54:43; C Byron 3:54:43; C Morgado 3:54:43; M Dodd 3:54:44; J Garnier 3:54:44; P ...



A physio treats the aching limbs of one happy finisher

... Clark 3:58:08; J Butler 3:58:08; G Rangel 3:58:08; J Runnenburg 3:58:08; B Shorter 3:58:08; I Gwyther 3:58:09; S Hewitt 3:58:09; W Dankmeier 3:58:09; D Higson 3:58:09; S Davies 3:58:10; R Macarthur 3:58:10; S Rousseau 3:58:10; K Jones 3:58:10; S Ingerslev 3:58:10; N Davidson 3:58:11; P Williams 3:58:11; D Plummer 3:58:11; D Guillot 3:58:11; A Merry 3:58:12; M Evans 3:58:12; G Gleave 3:58:12; R Griffin 3:58:12; M Capelin 3:58:13; L Fidler 3:58:13; M Hanssen 3:58:13; C Perkins 3:58:14; E Jones 3:58:14; K Yates 3:58:14; A Gregory 3:58:15; D Watson 3:58:15; R Mcarthur 3:58:16; G Blackburn 3:58:16; M Leatherland 3:58:16; S Meenenga 3:58:16; A Blackburn 3:58:16; K Blackburn 3:58:16; M Laine 3:58:16; N Blackburn 3:58:16; A Warren 3:58:17; M Mather 3:58:17; S Moody 3:58:17.

10901—K Jones 3:58:17; R Frigerio 3:58:18; A Lang 3:58:18; M Addis 3:58:18; P Astbury 3:58:18; I Rodgers 3:58:18; R Thornley 3:58:18; A Dolman 3:58:18; N Macauley 3:58:19; B Magor 3:58:19; J Wolstencroft 3:58:19; A Rocha 3:58:20; R Snell 3:58:20; N Salgado 3:58:20; G Whitaker 3:58:20; J Hansen 3:58:20; N Lumley 3:58:20; A Reape 3:58:20; P Damevin 3:58:21; B Totten ...

... Townsend 3:59:04; S Haslam 3:59:04; P Mosley 3:59:04; P Townsend 3:59:05; C Nay 3:59:05; P Hardman 3:59:05; G Cork 3:59:05; B Attoe 3:59:05; D Forino 3:59:05; R Dugmore 3:59:06; N Briggs 3:59:06; T Buckingham 3:59:06; P Haigh 3:59:06; C Dow 3:59:06; A Gleadhill 3:59:06; A Conboy 3:59:06; D Anders 3:59:07; I Watson 3:59:07; F Degroote 3:59:07; D Marsden 3:59:07; G Langston 3:59:07; M Macdonald 3:59:07; A Richardson 3:59:07; E Smith 3:59:07; I Grocott 3:59:08; M Richards 3:59:08; S Carroll 3:59:08; N Crombie 3:59:08; T Tovey 3:59:08; A Hansel 3:59:08; P Van Zijl 3:59:08; W Crawford 3:59:08; G Hodson 3:59:09; L Turner 3:59:09; H Debaghi 3:59:10; T Kane 3:59:10; B Worth 3:59:11; J Mcfadzean 3:59:11; I Tonks 3:59:11; D Hetherington 3:59:11; P Rea 3:59:11; M Southwell 3:59:11; T Nash 3:59:11; S Osborne 3:59:12; C Gonde 3:59:12; J Mcneill 3:59:12; J Mason 3:59:12; A Ruia 3:59:13; K Beats 3:59:13; R De Laselo 3:59:13; M Mcdonald 3:59:13; P Foster 3:59:14; D Hegarty 3:59:14; J Sutton 3:59:14; K Parker 3:59:14; P Taysum 3:59:14; E Martin 3:59:14; S Taylor 3:59:15; S Anthony 3:59:16; F Hazlin 3:59:16; G Mankee 3:59:16; D Slyth 3:59:16; D Fry 3:59:17; D Pollett 3:59:17; C Christou 3:59:17; S ...





... Thomas 4:02:34; C Thomas 4:02:34; R Goumaz 4:02:34; J Waugh 4:02:34; I Boyd 4:02:35; A Cambridge 4:02:35; S Ganguly 4:02:35; K Rigby 4:02:35; M Truman 4:02:35; D Barnes 4:02:36; G Kirkby 4:02:36; K Smyth 4:02:36; T Burton 4:02:36; Y Maemura 4:02:37; M Bailey 4:02:37; J Hurney 4:02:37; P Brooks 4:02:37; T Jordan 4:02:37; S Mccormack 4:02:37; D Sharpe 4:02:38; J Infield 4:02:38; A Thomas 4:02:38; B Collen 4:02:38; R Burling 4:02:38; K Rutter 4:02:39; J Taylor 4:02:39; F Lane 4:02:39; R Kawamura 4:02:39; A Elkins 4:02:39; B Breejen Den 4:02:39; D Manning 4:02:40; N Haynes 4:02:40; M Van Vroonhoven 4:02:40; D Fend 4:02:40; N Jones 4:02:40; J Francis 4:02:40; M West 4:02:40; L Selby 4:02:40; T Mills 4:02:41; A Land 4:02:41; B Cox 4:02:41; J Spooner 4:02:42.

12001—B Tribe 4:02:42; D May

... Hickman 4:03:57; D Hendrey 4:03:58; T Preston 4:03:58; N Miller 4:03:58; N Yeomans 4:03:59; S Bapodra 4:03:59; J Taylor 4:03:59; A Lorenzo 4:03:59; J Mondrzejewski 4:04:00; V Furbank 4:04:00; N Lambourne 4:04:00; N Crowder 4:04:00.

12301—L Garraghan 4:04:01; S Yeomans 4:04:01; A Camp 4:04:01; D Huggett 4:04:01; C Hearn 4:04:01; S Hall 4:04:01; D Cumming 4:04:02; E Brown 4:04:02; D Brookes 4:04:02; J Akhurst 4:04:02; K Mccombe 4:04:02; L Akhurst 4:04:02; J Murphy 4:04:02; B Reynolds 4:04:02; N Seager 4:04:02; E Perrett 4:04:03; K Williams 4:04:03; G Webber 4:04:03.

More results tomorrow

RUGBY UNION

Moneymen confident clubs can halt losses

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND'S two most successful clubs, the East Midlands duo of Leicester and Northampton, will make substantial losses this season but both remain optimistic that the worst is over. Indeed next season, with Europe on the horizon, both believe they can, at worst, break even.

Leicester, who are within three points of the title, will lose in excess of £500,000 this season while Northampton, whose second place is the highest that they have achieved in the Premiership, will lose £1.7 million. These are clubs with a formidable following, so the losses facing the less successful can easily be imagined.

"We took a calculated decision and last year I spent an extra £500,000 so that Ian McGeechan [the director of rugby] could have what he wanted," Keith Barwell, the Northampton chairman, said. "But Europe will be worth perhaps another £700,000, we will reduce the players' wage bill by about £500,000 and I'm rather hoping that the excitement of the World Cup and Europe plus our own commercial nous will mean that next season we lose between nothing and £500,000. If I desperately wanted to, I could go into the black."

Preparations for this season were severely impaired by the inability of the leading clubs to produce a fixture list for members and sponsors, causing financial chaos. Hard lessons have been learnt and Barwell and Peter Tom, his Leicester counterpart, hope that the board meeting next Tuesday of English First-Division Rugby will produce a formula for 1999-2000, in particular a credible means of conducting club rugby before and during the World Cup.

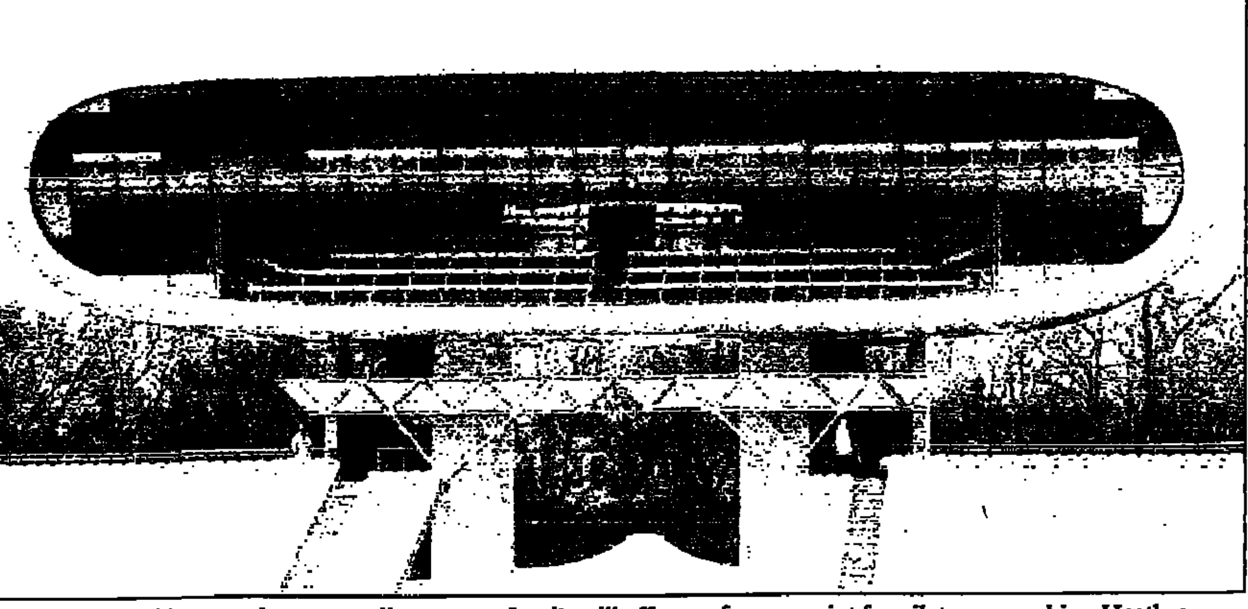
Both men have considerable personal fortunes but where Barwell has chosen to fund directly Northampton's rise, Tom has brought business acumen to bear on a club that has traditionally relied on the city's commercial leaders.

"I have been in a position where, in an emergency, I could help out because some of my best moments were spent playing for Leicester," Tom said. "But I think the departure from the scene of Sir John Hall and Ashley Levett, which may have created difficulties for Newcastle and Richmond, has helped to restore reality."

All England's clubs have agreed the imposition of a salary cap of £1.5 million next season but there is also a continued debate over the number of clubs that will be competing at the highest level. If rumoured mergers take place, the number of clubs in the first division could be reduced from 14 to 12, which would affect the distribution of cash from television fees.

"I'm delighted that the clubs are back in Europe and that there seems to be peace between the International Board, the Rugby Football Union and the clubs," Barwell said. "There are still some tricky things to be resolved, notably the great mass of fixtures scheduled, which could very well necessitate some short-term contracts for players. I expect to lose ten players to various World Cup squads. Gloucester, for example, might only lose one.

"But I went into this with my eyes open. I told my committee three years ago that a fog would come down and life would be very difficult. I also told them no more than six or eight English clubs would survive but it's nice to know that there is enough money to fund an elite."



TOBY MELVILLE

Navigational beacon: the new media centre at Lord's will offer a reference point for pilots approaching Heathrow

Woolmer's career prepares to take an academic turn



FATHER TIMES

Bob Woolmer, the highly regarded South Africa coach whom the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has in mind as a successor to David Lloyd, is planning a new venture in the Republic. He intends to start his own academy in Cape Town.

This will involve coaching youths of all races and the building of a new ground, which would take two years. It means that Woolmer, who hankers after working for himself, would continue to be based in his house in a suburb of Cape Town that overlooks a golf course.

Woolmer, who is to be succeeded as the South Africa coach after the World Cup by Graham Ford, the Natal coach, who was his assistant on the recent tour to New Zealand, is also having discussions with Channel 4 over joining its commentary team for the subsequent Test series between England and New Zealand. In addition to his plans in Cape Town, he will be discussing his future with the United Cricket Board of South Africa after the World Cup.

"My relationship with Ali Bacher has not deteriorated and there would be a loyalty factor involved if I wanted to coach another country," Woolmer said. "I also need a sabbatical, so if I do return to Warwickshire, it will not be at least until next March. The ECB has not made me an offer and I do not know if it can wait that long."

Numbers game

An innovation this season is the numbering of players' shirts, which is not without its complications. England, for example, are refusing to use No 13 in the World Cup and there was much confusion in the CGU National League match at the Riverside last weekend. Durham's scoreboard operator had Mark Butcher, of Surrey, down as No 9. In the match programme, Butcher, whose squad number is one, was No 3 and he batted with 12 on his back.

Plane service

The new media centre at Lord's, which will be unveiled officially next week, will have its uses. Often likened to an object from outer space, it will actually have more in common with conventional aircraft. Pilots coming in off Bovingdon Hold, one of four holding positions for planes approaching Heathrow, can use it as a reference point.

"Obviously it will not be of practical use in poor visibility and hence will not be an official reporting point," a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said, "but it will be a landmark for planes in the same way that the Canary Wharf tower and Wembley Stadium are at the moment."

Backing women

The effervescent Frances Edmonds, the famous cricketing author, is to be proposed for membership of MCC by her husband, Phil, the new chairman of Middlesex. Will she be seconded — or perhaps blackballed — by Mike Gatting, whom she once likened to a plumber?

"I also want to put Alexandra, my daughter, down for membership, but she is a little young," Edmonds, the former Middlesex and England all-rounder, said. "I encourage ladies to join the golf club and hotel I am developing in Kent, so, although there are occasions when men want to be on their own, I am all for women in the Long Room, too."



Edmonds: letting go another teasing delivery

Art form

A two-day ECB seminar for coaches in Birmingham, starting on June 1, will include sessions on taichi, a form of martial arts that is thought to help batsmen by examining the "nature of movement, balance and breathing". And cricket is supposed to be played in the mind.

□ *Cricket followers who would like to attend the fund-raising match for Winston Davis, the former West Indies bowler who is now a tetraplegic, at Finedon, Northamptonshire, on May 23, should contact Melanie Henson on 01933 682440.*

IVO TENNANT

CRICKET

Cork seeks to settle future with England

By Richard Hobson

DOMINIC CORK wants an assurance from the England selectors that he has a future in international cricket after being omitted from the World Cup squad this summer. The Derbyshire captain denied that disruptions at the county affected his form during the Ashes tour last winter and said he was fed-up with the perception of being a poor team man.

"I am sick of hearing that Dominic Cork is a big spoilt brat when I am not," he said. "I am not in the England side at the moment because I am seen as not being good enough. But shouldn't I have been told that? If I have had my day at international level, then can somebody tell me.

"I do not want to bleed my lungs every day when there is no chance of playing for England because that is what everybody strives for. I heard that David Graveney [the chairman of selectors] was coming to talk to me, but that has not happened, and my mobile phone has been on all the time."

Cork, 27, was England's leading wicket-taker in the last World Cup and was chosen originally as a specialist one-day player. "I am not asking for people to feel sorry or think I have had a hard deal, but I know I am capable of winning matches because I have done it before," he said.

"As for being selfish, I have video tapes of me bowling with a groin strain, with the nails ripped off my toes and blood coming out of my feet. I am not the only person who has played through the pain barrier for my country — but what for? For nobody to say we will help you or stick by you?"

Cork said that his threat to resign as Derbyshire captain did not spring from a wish to take overall control of the county. "All I wanted was a group of people working in the same direction. It was never about ultimate power, I am not a megalomaniac. The idea that Dominic Cork is running the club is absolute rubbish," he said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Simpson to return for Wembley cup final

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Robbie Simpson will miss the London Broncos' JJB Super League game at home to Warrington Wolves on Saturday, but will be available for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on May 1. The Rugby Football League disciplinary committee yesterday suspended the second-row forward for one match and fined him £250 for a reckless high tackle during the defeat by Wakefield Trinity last Sunday.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Bob Donewald, the controversial coach of Derby Storm, who discovered yesterday that the club were not renewing his contract, will hardly be dismayed by the decision. Less than a week ago, after Derby's exit from the Budweiser Championship play-offs, Donewald, who has been banned for five games and presided over a squad involved in the worst brawl in British basketball's history at Chester 11 weeks ago, admitted: "It's time to move on."

■ **REAL TENNIS:** Kate Leeming, of Australia, survived a testing struggle against Clare Southwell, of Great Britain, in the opening round of the Guy Salmon women's world championship at Hampton Court. Leeming, the No 8 seed, retrieved well and produced a string of unreturnable services. Sally Jones, the No 5 seed and former world champion, beat Christine Amies, of France.

■ **SQUASH:** Michelle Martin, of Australia, the world No 1, got herself into top gear on Monday evening to secure her fiftieth leading title on the international tour. She beat Carol Owens, her compatriot, 9-4, 9-7, 2-9, 9-4 in the final of the WISPA World Grand Prix play-offs in Hurghada, Egypt.

■ **CYCLING:** Harrods was confirmed yesterday as the third trade team from Britain in the seven-day PruTour, which starts in London on May 23. The tour ends in Edinburgh after a 730-mile route through England, Wales and Scotland.

SAILING

Robertson pursues Olympic dream

From Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent in Hyeres

SHIRLEY ROBERTSON has been sailing the tiny single-handed Europe dinghy for a very long time, yet her determination to achieve an Olympic medal in a class that has provided her with as much heartache as glory over the years remains undimmed.

Yesterday she completed a satisfactory opening phase to the defence of her title at the Olympic Classes Regatta on the Côte d'Azur with her sixth successive top-ten finish to take her comfortably into the elite "gold fleet" for the final stages of the championship.

After a lay-off since the class world championships at Melbourne in January, when she was third, Robertson has arrived here more relaxed than normal and apparently the better for it. "I think I'm a more consistent sailor," the two-time Olympian who finished fourth at the Atlanta Games regatta at Savannah, said. "My sailing skills have improved tremendously — it's partly down to getting a bit older and partly down to the match-racing I've been doing recently."

But Robertson, who is now 30 and one of the oldest in the class, is going to have a tough fight on her hands to finish in the top three this week. Among her main rivals are the two Holland women, who occupy the top two places in the world rankings, Margriet Matthysse, who has scored five firsts, and Carolijn Brouwer, who has been consistent in the top ten.

In the Laser class, Ben Ainslie is having an unusual championships with capsizes in three races affecting his scoring. In the first race yesterday, the world No 1 and Olympic silver medal-winner was rammed by the jury boat just before the start and found himself head-to-wind as the gun went off. He recovered to finish third, but a disappointing thirteenth in race two leaves him in eighth place overall.

Garcia earns his promotion

From Mel Webb in Barcelona

IT WAS just a practice round, but what a cast. And what a finish. Three men and a boy, and the boy upstaged the lot of them. Today, Sergio García will play his first round as a professional in the pro-am on the eve of the Spanish Open at El Prat and the eyes of golfing Spain — the golfing world, even — will be on him. But yesterday there was time for a spot of relaxation with a trio of famous compatriots and he helped the greatest one of them all to win the money.

García, 19, was playing with Severiano Ballesteros against José María Olazábal and Miguel Angel Jiménez, and to most young men of his age, playing with two Masters champions and a Ryder Cup vice-captain would have reduced them to quivering incompetence.

Not this boy, not the one they call "El Nino". As the four approached the last green he was laughing and joking with the others, even though he had missed the green.

No matter. García walked to his ball, sized up the shot and, from 50 feet and more, chipped. In, at the last roll. García exchanged a mildly jubilant high five with Ballesteros and walked off, his last round of golf as an amateur completed.

The incident, if not the situation, took the mind back to another young man chipping in with the last amateur stroke of his life. García will be hoping to make a better start than Justin Rose and Ballesteros, for one, was bullish about the young pretender's chances.

"I predict that he will have a great career and that one day he will be a Masters champion," he said. "My message to him is to say 'no' as many times as he can. He must not listen to anybody else — he should be Sergio García always."

PERTH

ROB WRIGHT

2.20 Lucky Master
2.50 Forestal
3.20 Mystere
3.50 High In The Clouds
4.25 Plumbob
4.55 Begorrat
5.25 Mick McCann

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.20 PARTY HAS STARTED MURRAYSHALL HOTEL MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £2,580: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 3542 CHOICE CUT 16 T Caldwell 6-11-7 ... R Johnson
2 43-P DAVENPORT SILVER 18 P Beaumont 5-11-7 ... B Grattan (3)
3 -600 GIFTED GILBERT 137 L Lungo 6-11-7 ... W Dowling (5)
4 2642 LUCKY MASTER 16 J Upson 7-11-7 ... R Supple
5 P1/P MAGILLEN 15 (S) K Bailey 7-11-7 ... N Williamson
6 2252 NORTHERN UNION 18 C Parker 8-11-7 ... D Parker
7 5212 THE HILL HAS MOVED 63 (BF,S) P Hobbs 6-11-7 R Dunwoody
8 0646 THUNDERHEART 9 R Allan 6-11-7 ... A P McCoy
9 60PP TRIX OF THE TRADE 26 (B) Mrs D Thomson 6-11-7 ... B Storey
10 3342 SILLYMORE 40 (F,S) P Monteith 6-11-2 ... C McCormack (3)
11 0005 MADMAN'S MIRAGE 53 V Thompson 4-11-0 ... Mr M Thompson
12 4 SON OF SKELTON 28 J Haldane 4-11-0 ... A S Smith

3-1 Choice Cut, 7-2 The Hill Has Moved, 4-1 Northern Union, 11-2 Lucky Master, Sillymore, 10-1 Thunderheart, 12-1 Magillen, 25-1 others.

2.50 TULLIS HANDICAP CHASE (£7,198. 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 R1-R CORSTON JOKER 144 (CD,F,G) L Lungo 9-12-0 ... R Supple
2 2626 FORESTAL 34 (D,G,S) J Howard Johnson 7-12-0 ... A P McCoy
3 11-1 AVANTI EXPRESS 16 (B,G,S) C Egerton 9-11-10 N Williamson
4 F1F1 TIRALDO 55 (D,G,S) H Daly 6-11-3 ... R Johnson
5 /524 KINGS CHERRY 15 (D,S) J Old 11-10-12 ... C Llewellyn
6 -01F HUNCHEON CHANCE 15 (D,F,G,S) I Ferguson (Ire) 9-10-0 ... A Maguire
7 230P VINTAGE TAITTINGER 158 (C,D,F,G) J Goldie 7-10-0 A Dobbin

11-4 Avanti Express, 4-1 Tiraldo, 5-1 Forestal, Huncheon Chance, 11-2 Corston Joker, Kings Cherry, 16-1 Vintage Taittinger.

3.20 S.B.J. NELSON STEAVENSON MARES NOVICES HURDLE (£5,654: 3m 110yd) (7)

1 2410 LADY OF GORTMERRON 7 (D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-10 ... C Llewellyn
2 3-21 COUNTRY HOUSE 153 (G) J Old 6-11-7 ... A P McCoy
3 5-14 MYSTERE 153 (BF,S) K Bailey 6-11-7 ... N Williamson
4 -062 CHANTILLY ROSE 36 Miss R Brewis 7-11-1 ... A S Smith
5 4658 DUN ROSE 26 Mrs J Storey 5-11-1 ... A Dobbin
6 0480 HEAVENLY THOUGHT 26 (B) Mrs D Thomson 8-11-1 D Parker
7 3-48 SOLWAY ROSE 16 J J O'Neill 5-11-1 ... L Cooper (7)

7-4 Country House, 2-1 Lady Of Gortmerron, 11-4 Mystere, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A J Martin, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%. R Thomson, 3 from 6, 50.0%. P Hobbs, 13 from 27, 48.1%. J FitzGerald, 7 from 19, 36.8%. J Goldie, 15 from 67, 22.4%. P Beaumont, 7 from 32, 21.9%.

JOCKEYS: W Dowling, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%. A Maguire, 6 from 23, 26.1%; A McCoy, 12 from 47, 25.5%; A Dobbin, 19 from 81, 23.5%. R Johnson, 7 from 30, 23.3%. R Supple, 11 from 63, 17.5%.

3.50 HALL & COMPANY WS NOVICES CHASE (£5,836: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 2211 TROUBLE AHEAD 35 (D,S) K Bailey 8-11-11 ... N Williamson
2 2221 HIGH IN THE CLOUDS 28 (D,F,G) H Daly 7-11-7 ... R Johnson
3 1P36 STASH THE CASH 23 (T,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-11-7 B Harding
4 4124 TRIGGERFISH 53 (D,G) P Monteith 7-11-7 ... A Dobbin
5 6-04 JUST NED 12 J Haldane 8-11-3 ... B Storey
6 d4B23 TURKISH TOWER 16 (S) R Nixon 8-11-3 ... S Taylor

4-5 Trouble Ahead, 2-1 High In The Clouds, 10-1 Stash The Cash, 12-1 others.

4.25 NEW PLAN FURNITURE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,981: 3m 110yd) (15)

1 1625 PLUMBOB 23 (BF,G,S) L Lungo 10-11-10 ... A J Martin
2 010- STOCK OPTION 389 (G) Mrs J Storey 6-11-7 ... J Nicholl
3 3400 IVY HOUSE 16 (B,T,D,G,S) J J O'Neill 11-11-5 ... S Olley (7)
4 F-24 MONTE CRESTA 158 (S) Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-2 M Bradburne
5 2-P0 JAMES THE FIRST 16 (D,F,G,S) E W Tuer 12-11-1 P Fahey (5)
6 3054 ONYOUROWN 23 (F,S) J Howard Johnson 6-10-7 ... J Crowley
7 3442 GLACIAL DANCER 23 (D,S) L Lungo 6-10-5 ... B Gibson (3)
8 3P8F HUSO 32P (F,S) H Orde-Powlett 11-10-4 ... W Orde-Powlett (7)
9 3226 RUBER 16 (CD,F,G,S) R Thomson 12-10-2 ... Miss P Robson
10 3104 LINDAJANE 41 (S) D Whillans 7-10-1 ... K Renwick (7)
11 022- SAXON MEAD 327 (F) P Hobbs 9-10-1 ... D O'Meara (7)
12 6541 LATIN LEADER 30 (B,F,G,S) C Parker 9-10-0 ... A Dempsey
13 P-PP TOBY 34 (F,G) N Richards 6-10-0 ... Mrs C Ford (5)
14 4533 PESSIMISTIC DICK 16 (B) Mrs D Thomson 6-10-0 ... C Rae (3)
15 500P BLOOMING SPRING 113 (CD,F) Mrs D Thomson 10-10-0 ... Mrs V Jackson (3)

4-1 Glacial Dancer, 5-1 Monte Cresta, 11-2 Onyourown, 8-1 Ruber, 9-1 others

4.55 BALLATHIE HOUSE HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,571: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 1333 EASTERN PROJECT 44 (BF,CD) M Hammond 5-11-10 B Harding
2 2014 BEGORRAT 23F (D,S) J Goldie 5-11-10 ... D Byrne
3 2-05 VICTOR LASZLO 140 (C,F) R Allan 7-11-2 ... N Williamson
4 40P0 NIJMEGEN 18 (B,D,G,S) J FitzGerald 11-11-1 ... A P McCoy
5 0460 FALCON DU COTEAU 14 (B) A J Martin (Ire) 6-10-6 A Maguire
6 P5P0 COMMON SOUND 16 (V,D,S) J Barclay 8-10-5 ... R Johnson
7 F446 CINEMA PARADISO 96 N Richards 5-10-5 ... A Dobbin
8 0040 JONA HOLLEY 11F M Hammond 6-10-0 ... N Horrocks (3)

5-2 Eastern Project, 7-2 Begorrat, 5-1 Victor Laszlo, Cinema Paradiso, 6-1 others.

5.25 PARTY HAS STARTED MURRAYSHALL HOTEL MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,580: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1 1-PF CHERGAN 26 (S) Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-7 Mr M Bradburne (3)
2 16-0 GRASP THE NETTLE 139 (B,S) K Bailey 7-11-7 N Williamson
3 1/4 KNIGHTSBRIDGE STAR 16 (G) Miss V Williams 10-11-7 R Johnson
4 3253 LOBBINGALONG 16 N Richards 5-11-7 ... A Dobbin
5 F14 MICK MCCANN 15 (T,S) A J Martin (Ire) 6-11-7 ... A Maguire
6 3P55 OLLIES BOY 30 J Barclay 8-11-7 ... C McCormack (3)
7 P245 STONEHILL 16 (S) J Howard Johnson 6-11-7 ... A P McCoy
8 000 VIRTUOUS CIRCLE 51 B Ellison 5-11-7 ... N Horrocks (3)
9 00 WHATABUCK 81 Mrs D Thomson 5-11-7 ... M Foster
10 P-0P BUTTERNUT SAL 9 D Lamb 8-11-2 ... J Burke
11 P000 PHARKULA 40 Miss L Russell 6-11-2 ... S Durack
12 3320 WILLA THYNE 16 R Allan 5-11-2 ... B Storey

2-1 Knightsbridge Star, 7-2 Grasp The Nettle, 4-1 Lobbingalong, 8-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: EPSOM: 2.05 Ron's Pet. **CATTERICK:** 2.30 French Mystery. **PERTH:** 4.55 Common Sound, Falcon Du Coteau. 5.25 Grasp The Nettle. **TOWCESTER:** 2.10 Stamford Hall, Miss Chiquita. 2.40 Red River. 3.15 Bad Bertrich, Side On, Redgrave Wolf. 3.45 Grecian Lark. 4.20 Mine's An Ace.

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RACING: LEADING JOCKEY RETURNS TO THE SADDLE AFTER ESCAPING JAIL SENTENCE

Williamson revels in freedom

By Alan Lee
Racing Correspondent

NORMAN WILLIAMSON finished a tailed-off last on his first ride at Chepstow yesterday and returned caked in mud. The weather was foul, the racing mediocre but Williamson was pleased to be there, relieved to be free to be there. For a man who might have spent the remaining big days of the jumps season in jail, he suddenly has a lot to look forward to.

At Gloucester magistrates court on Monday, Williamson was described as "full of remorse and embarrassment" about the drink-driving offence that, it was said by the court chairman, escaped a prison sentence "by a whisker". The memory plainly made him uncomfortable yesterday but, after two months of anxiety, at least he can now make his plans with confidence.

In the short term, these involve the enviable ride on Betty's Boy, for Kim Bailey, in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on Saturday, and a reunion with Direct Route — an impressive winner at Aintree — in the BMW Chase at Punchestown next Tuesday. The 30-year-old also has some good rides at the Perth festival, which begins today.

"I am just glad the ordeal is over," Williamson said of his court case. "It could have been a lot worse — I might have hit somebody — and I knew there was a chance I could go to prison. We all do silly things sometimes. It was a lesson to me and I'm glad to be back riding."

This has been a season of sensitive decisions for Williamson, whose principal stables have frequently clashed. He confirmed that he is set to partner Betty's Boy, one of two Bailey runners in the Whitbread, ahead of either General Wolfe or The Outback Way for Venetia Williams.

Victory for Betty's Boy, a late defector from the Grand National, would give a late fillip to Bailey, unusually low in the trainers' list with only 34 winners. "It's been a season I would wish to forget," Bailey said with feeling yesterday.

"Betty's Boy looked like being very special in his novice days but he has been a hard horse to train and he's had a lot of leg problems. He's been fine since winning at Cheltenham, though, and he will only be 4lb out of the handicap at Sandown, so we've got to be hopeful."

While Bailey, whose other runner Cariboo Gold will be ridden by Rupert Wakley, hopes for drier weather up to the weekend, it may take another deluge to persuade Williams to run General Wolfe. "I can't say if he runs at the moment but it will partly be down to the ground," she said yesterday.

Susan Nock, the Gloucestershire permit holder, has expressed her dismay at the suspension of Graham Bradley's licence but she has now obtained a suitable substitute for her stable star, Senor El Betrutti. "I have been offered Mick Fitzgerald for the Whitbread and I'm very happy with that," Mrs Nock said.

Richard Dunwoody will partner Nahthen Lad, potentially Jenny Pitman's last big winner before retirement, while Adrian Maguire, who won the race on Call It A Day last season, is likely to ride Major Bell for Alistair Whillans. "We have an alternative at Perth on Friday but I am favouring Sandown," Whillans said.

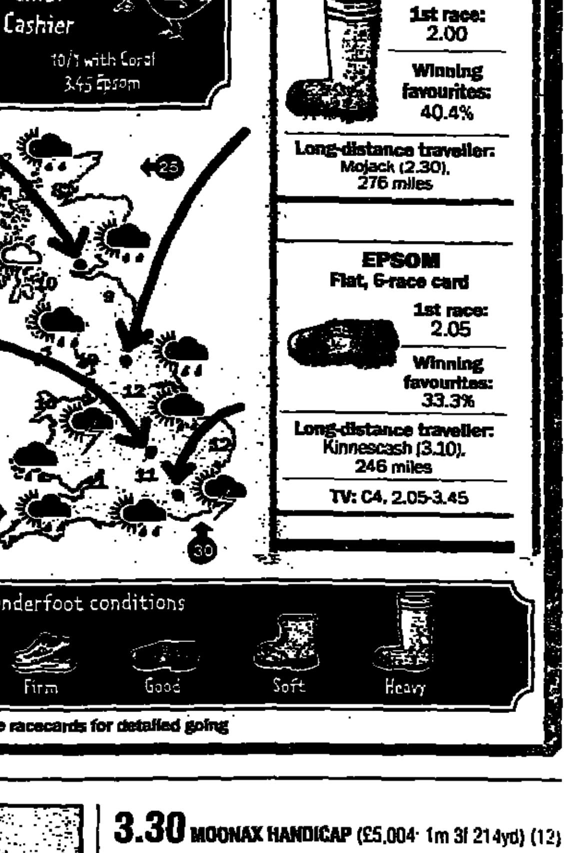
Tony McCoy, who will probably ride Jathib ahead of Martin Pipe's other runner, Cyborgo, already has his jockeys' title in safe keeping but he shows no sign of easing up. His win on Belmorebruno yesterday rates as one of the strongest, most persistent rides of the season.

Away from the racecourse, the British Horseracing Board yesterday described the suggestion that there will be 18 consecutive racing Sundays next year as "speculation". It is, however, certainly their intention to maximise the potential of summer Sundays and, from the viewpoint of attracting new and younger racegoers, not before time. Unlike Williamson, few would have chosen to be at Chepstow yesterday.

BARRY BATCHELOR



Senor El Betrutti will be ridden by Mick Fitzgerald in the Whitbread Gold Cup on Saturday



See racecards for detailed going

EPSOM

ROB WRIGHT

2.05 THE FUGATIVE (nap) · 2.35 Daliapour · 3.10 Red Ramona · 3.45 Kewarra (nb) · 4.15 Border Prince · 4.45 Elba Magic

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.35 DALIAPOUR.

Our Newmarket correspondent: 2.35 Daliapour. 3.10 Banbury. 4.45 CALLDAT SEVENTEEN (nap).

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.05 J & E HALL HANDICAP (£7,068: 6f) (16 runners) — C4

101 (10) 4030-5 JENNELLE 16 (F,S) (Mrs J Cornwell) C Dwyer 5-10-0 — J Fortune 81
102 (11) /0501- CLEF OF SILVER 200 (D,F,G) (Silver Ciel Racing) W Jarvis 4-9-10 — D McGaffin (7) 82
103 (1) 020-00 TWICE AS SHARP 16 (D,F,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 7-9-6 — L Dettori 88
104 (13) 2130-0 MAPLE 8 (D,G) (G Steinberg) D Elsworth 3-9-4 — N Pollard (3) 91
105 (3) 500-00 JAYANNPEE 14 (T,D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Caine) I Balding 8-9-3 — K Fallon 98
106 (6) 0156-4 STYLISH WAYS 8 (D,F,G,S) (I Hall) J Pearce 7-9-0 — R Price 97
107 (12) 33036- WHITE EMIR 166 (F,G,S) (Three Bears Racing) B Millman 6-8-10 — M Roberts 108
108 (14) 2666-4 THE FUGATIVE 12 (CD,G,S) (J Redmond) P Mitchell 6-8-9 — M Tebbutt 98
109 (15) 1110-0 ALPEN WOLF 16 (D,F) (R Harm) W Muir 4-8-7 — Martin Dwyer 100
110 (16) 0000-0 BLUNDELL LANE 16 (D,F,G) (N Coverdale) A Jarvis 4-8-7 — D Sweeney 110
111 (4) 2540-0 IVORY DAWN 16 (D,F,G) (D Ivory) K Ivory 5-8-6 — G Bardwell 105
112 (2) 5-1414 RON'S PET 11 (B,T,G) (N Shields) K Burke 4-8-5 — N Callan (5)
113 (7) 01-050 FACILE TIGRE 21 (BF,D,F,S) (D Churston) S Dow 4-8-5 — P Doe (3) 100
114 (5) 2360-0 CARLTON 16 (B,D,F,S) (City Slickers) G Lewis 5-7-13 — A Nicholls (5) 109
115 (8) 4043-2 HALMANERROR 21 (D,F,G,S) (Cauliheads Racing) G McCourt 9-7-11 — A Mackay 105
116 (9) 006-00 ENGLISH LADY 71 (English Lady Classics Ltd) M Haynes 4-7-10 — J Quinn 103

Long handicap: English Lady 6-12.

BETTING: 9-2 Stylish Ways, 7-1 Twice As Sharp, 8-1 White Emir, Blundell Lane, 10-1 Halmanerror, The Fugative, 12-1 Jayannpee, Jennelle, Carlton, 14-1 Clef Of Silver, Alpen Wolf, Ivory Dawn, Ron's Pet, 20-1 others.

1998: MARENGO 4-7-10 J Quinn (11-2) J Akehurst 11 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: Further rain could prompt those drawn high to tack over to the stands' rail in search of better ground. BLUNDELL LANE, drawn 16 of 16, is best positioned to capitalise on any such advantage and deserves a slice of luck after running well from a poor draw at Kempton (6f) last time, finishing 5¼l eighth of 23 to Passion For Life with Twice As Sharp (same terms) another ¾l back in ninth. The son of Shalford showed his suitability to a fast track when bolting up by 4l at Chester (6f) last May and is now able to race off a 5lb lower mark after his form tailed off in the latter half of last season. Stylish Ways, rated just 58 at the start of last season, showed progressive form throughout the campaign, winning twice, and may still be ahead of the handicapper on a mark 77. He appeared to show further improvement when an excellent 4¾l fourth of 13 to Bold Edge in a listed race at Newmarket (6f) on his reappearance last week. Halmanerror ran a big race on his return from an eight-month absence when finishing a neck second of 16 to Indian Blaze at Folkestone (7f) last month and, as effective at this shorter trip, is another with claims.

2.35 SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS BLUE RIBAND TRIAL STAKES (3-Y-O: £8,760: 1m 2f 18yd) (5 runners) — C4

201 (4) 6131- DALIAPOUR 193 (F,S) (H H Aga Khan) L Cumani 9-4 — G Mosse
202 (2) 6221- LIGHTNING ARROW 173 (S) (W Said) J Dunlop 9-0 — K Fallon 95
203 (3) 45435- DIABLO DANCER 172 (F,S) (Kentisbeare Quartet) B Millman 8-12 — G Hind 84
204 (5) 2-4 HELVETIUS 18 (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) C Brittain 8-10 — P Robinson 87
205 (1) 03143- TRIO 166 (S) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) N Hamilton 8-10 — S Sanders 72

BETTING: 11-10 Lightning Arrow, 6-4 Daliapour, 10-1 Diablo Dancer, Trio, 16-1 Helvetius.

1998: THE GLOW-WORM 8-12 M Hills (11-8 fav) B Hills 5 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: DALIAPOUR has to concede 4lb to fellow Derby entrant Lightning Arrow but can prove equal to the task. A beautifully-bred colt by Sadler's Wells out of a high-class and well-related dam, Luca Cumani's charge was seen at his best last year when his stamina was brought into play on soft ground in the listed Autumn Stakes at Ascot (1m) in October. Soon at the head of affairs, he drew clear inside the distance to comprehensively reverse earlier Newbury placings with Boatman and promises to do even better stepped up in distance this year. Lightning Arrow is held in high esteem by his trainer, John Dunlop, and was value for twice the 2½l winning margin when beating Soccus Viel at Newmarket (1m) last October. He should also progress further over middle-distances. Helvetius has the benefit of a race behind him this year, finishing a respectable 8¼l fourth of five to Glamis at Kempton (1m 2f), but needs to find a fair amount of improvement to figure here. Diablo Dancer, 7½l fifth to Adnaan in listed company at Newmarket (1m 2f) in October, and Trio, 4½l third to Bring Sweets at Doncaster (1m) after finishing behind the selection at Newbury, complete the line-up.

3.10 STANLEY RACING GREAT METROPOLITAN HANDICAP (£10,031: 1m 4f 10yd) (13 runners) — C4

301 (4) 51001- ZALAL 195 (D,G) (H H Aga Khan) L Cumani 4-10-0 — G Mosse 69
302 (13) 0331-0 NAUTICAL STAR 16 (CD,F,S) (M Wauchope) J Hills 4-9-13 — R Hills 97
303 (1) 41313- MONTECRISTO 206 (CD,F,G,S) (R Guest) R Guest 6-9-12 — N Pollard (3) 77
304 (2) 56045- RED RAMONA 185 (D,G) (A Spence) J Akehurst 4-9-11 — K Fallon 95
305 (6) 210112 BANBURY 20 (D,G) (Cedar Lodge Syndicate) C Dwyer 5-9-5 — L Dettori 83
306 (9) 361-26 RAYIK 11 (Lancing Racing Syndicate) N Berry 4-9-1 — N Carlisle 83
307 (8) 3622-1 MINIVET 7 (D,F,G) (Sir Thomas Pilkington) M Bell 4-9-1 (5ex) — T Quinn 87
308 (12) 22244- DOMAPPEL 80J (D,F,G,S) (M Banks) W Jarvis 7-8-12 — J Weaver 104
309 (10) 153400 WHITE PLAINS 4 (T,D,F,S) (N Shields) K Burke 6-8-11 — N Callan (5) 107
310 (11) /1030/ PRINCE KINSKY 495J (CD,F) (Mrs A Bickel) J Old 6-8-11 — S Sanders --
311 (5) 02500- KINNESCASH 11J (D,F,S) (D James) P Bowen 6-8-9 — R Cochrane 76
312 (7) 22001- AL'S FELLA 170 (S) (Mrs C Hanbury) P Cole 4-8-8 — J Fortune 78
313 (3) 0134-0 RANDOM KINDNESS 91 (D,F) (949 Racing) R Ingram 6-8-6 — A Clark

BETTING: 4-1 Red Ramona, 9-2 Minivet, 7-1 Montecristo, 15-2 Zalal, 8-1 Al's Fella, Nautical Star, Kinnescash, 12-1 Domappel, 14-1 Banbury, 20-1 Prince Kinsky, Random Kindness, 25-1 Rayik, 33-1 White Plains.

1998: ASSURED GAMBLE 4-9-0 Pat Eddery (10-1) C Brittain 11 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: MONTECRISTO has an excellent wins-to-runs ratio and showed his liking for Epsom and an easy surface when beating Galepino by a comfortable 3l over course and distance (soft) last September. He failed to get the best of runs when subsequently 2½l third of 16 to Raise A Prince under a penalty at Ascot (1m 4f) and may still be ahead of the handicapper. Zalal's end-of-season York (1m 4f) victory was gained in a four-runner 0-85 rated stakes and a revised rating of 93 looks plenty high enough. Red Ramona makes more appeal. Formerly trained by Roger Charlton, he showed that there were races to be won with him off this sort of mark when finishing under 11l fifth of 23 to Yavanas Pace in the November Handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f) on his first start for present connections. Minivet confirmed the present wellbeing of trainer Michael Bell's string when beating Rainbow Ways 3l at Newmarket (1m 4f) a week ago and should again go well under a 5lb penalty. Nautical Star, winner of the amateurs' Derby, the Moet & Chandon Handicap, over course and distance last August, should be spot on after finishing seventh of 20 to Carry The Flag at Kempton (1m 2f) on Easter Monday.

EPSOM SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Balding, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; J Dunlop, 11 from 37, 29.7%; L Cumani, 3 from 13, 23.1%; R Guest, 3 from 13, 23.1%; D Elsworth, 5 from 22, 22.7%; W Jarvis, 3 from 16, 18.8%; A Jarvis, 3 from 17, 17.6%; P Cole, 10 from 58, 17.2%; W Muir, 3 from 18, 16.7%; P Harris, 5 from 32, 15.6%.

JOCKEYS: D Sweeney, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; K Fallon, 10 from 44, 22.7%; Pat Eddery, 16 from 77, 20.8%; A Daly, 5 from 25, 20.0%; T Sprake, 4 from 20, 20.0%; M Tebbutt, 3 from 15, 20.0%; J Weaver, 5 from 27, 18.5%; W Ryan, 6 from 37, 16.2%; S Sanders, 13 from 83, 15.7%; L Dettori, 8 from 54, 14.8%.

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 — B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

3.45 LINDE & RADFORD CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£10,553: 1m 2f 18yd) (14 runners) — C4

401 (12) 0035-0 ROYAL AMARETTO 16 (T,D,G) (Harlequin P'ship) B Meehan 5-10-0 — W J O'Connor 107
402 (13) 2/210- DANCING PHANTOM 306 (D,S) (B Bargh) M W Easterby 4-10-0 — Pat Eddery 89
403 (8) 130-U4 DOWER HOUSE 7 (CD,F,G) (Lord H De Walden) W Jarvis 4-9-12 — W Ryan 101
404 (11) 05306- PUTUNA 193 (C,D,S) (R Hitchins) I Balding 4-9-7 — K Fallon 114
405 (4) 111/0- ESHTIAAL 25J (B,D,F,S) (G Parker) G L Moore 5-9-7 — J Fortune 21
406 (1) 1000-5 ANOTHER TIME 11 (D,F,G) (W Jackson) S Woods 7-9-1 — Dane O'Neill 103
407 (9) 20200- SHADOOF 200 (CD,F,G) (J Bernstein) W Muir 5-8-13 — Martin Dwyer 103
408 (10) 600-32 SICK AS A PARROT 32 (F,G) (First Class Mobile) C Dwyer 4-8-11 — J Weaver
409 (6) 03300- KEWARRA 180 (CD,F,G,S) (G Palmer) B Millman 5-8-10 — T Sprake 116
410 (5) 00P13- ROBORANT 85J (B,D,F,G) (F Miller) J Akehurst 4-8-5 — S Sanders 97
411 (14) 4146-2 CHIEF CASHIER 25 (CD,F,S) (Surgical Spirits) G Balding 4-8-1 — A Daly (3) 103
412 (7) 352000 PHILISTAR 13 (C,D,F,G) (N Shields) K Burke 6-8-1 — J Quinn 119
413 (3) 00241- FAHS 155 (D,G) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) N Hamilton 7-7-13 — A Nicholls (5) 122
414 (2) 0154-2 ZURS 26 (D,F,S) (C Steward) J R Poulton 6-7-12 — R Mullen (3) 107

BETTING: 5-1 Kewarra, 7-1 Zurs, Dower House, Chief Cashier, Putuna, 9-1 Roborant, Another Time, 14-1 Fahs, Royal Amaretto, Dancing Phantom, Shadoof, Sick As A Parrot, Philistar, 33-1 Eshtiaal.

1998: KEWARRA 4-9-2 T Sprake (20-1) B Millman 15 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: Kewarra sprung a 20-1 surprise when landing this prize on his reappearance last season and, off a 1lb lower mark, merits respect. This looks a tougher renewal though and preference is for ZURS, who ran a cracker on his comeback at Doncaster (1m) when just edged out by Bomb Alaska. The winner franked the form by winning the Spring Cup at Newbury last Saturday and, off a mark just 3lb higher, Zurs looks bound to give a good account over a trip which suits him just as well. Chief Cashier scored twice over course and distance last season and, fit from hurdling, ran a good race in defeat at Warwick last month. On the second occasion he won here, in September, Chief Cashier had Zurs 2½l back in third, but the selection — who was running on strongly at the finish — gets a 6lb pull and can turn the tables. Shadoof (3lb higher than when winning here on Derby day), Dower House (flattered when fourth in the Earl Of Sefton Stakes latest), Putuna (won the maiden on this card last year despite struggling to handle the undulations) and Philistar (out of form) can also boast winning form on this course but make less appeal. Sick As A Parrot, who has been in good form on the all-weather, is unproven on easy ground, while Dancing Phantom, sold relatively cheaply in October given his level of form, is best watched on his first start for new connections. Fahs lacks a recent run but has more to recommend him than Royal Amaretto, who looks up against it under his big weight. Eshtiaal and Roborant have not distinguished themselves over timber recently.

4.15 INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION MAIDEN STAKES (£4,280: 1m 114yd) (16 runners)

501 (3) 5 CALYS HALO 83 (T Short) J G Smyth-Osbourne 4-9-10 — R Perham 29
502 (9) 520/0- CHAI-YO 14J (N Viney) J Old 9-9-10 — S Sanders 59
503 (16) 0060-0 MAC'S DREAM 9 (T) (J Marian) A Carroll 4-9-10 — M Tebbutt 38
504 (7) 5 SOHO TOMMY 13 (Soho Society) N Hamilton 5-9-10 — T Ashley 32
505 (15) VICTORY STAR (E Penser) Lady Herries 4-9-10 — A Clark --
506 (10) 00- BLUE LASER 222 (Miss J Semple) B Meehan 3-8-9 — W J O'Connor 63
507 (4) 06-2 BORDER PRINCE 16 (R Michaelson & D Aliport) I Balding 3-8-9 — K Fallon
508 (6) 0- EVERGREEN VENTURE 277 (Dr F Chao) S Woods 3-8-9 — Dane O'Neill 61
509 (1) 3 HIGH HOYLAND 7 (J Hardeman) R Hannon 3-8-9 — R Hughes 68
510 (14) 0- KUSTER 190 (Lord Vestey) L Cumani 3-8-9 — L Dettori 62
511 (5) 0 NEPTUNE 16 (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) G Lewis 3-8-9 — N Day 42
512 (2) 04- SOLE SINGER 177 (J Smith) I Balding 3-8-9 — S Whitworth 63
513 (12) 0244- GREENSTONE 190 (D Cursin) J Hills 3-8-4 — T Sprake 80
514 (11) 0-0 LYRIST 20 (S Manana) C Brittain 3-8-4 — P Robinson 49
515 (8) 0500-3 TICK N PICK 69 (B Scott) B Johnson 3-8-4 — P Doe (3) 69
516 (13) 0 WAR BABY 16 (Mrs J Laycock) Miss B Sanders 3-8-4 — A Whelan 17

BETTING: 13-8 Border Prince, 5-1 High Hoyland, 6-1 Kuster, Greenstone, 12-1 Victory Star, Evergreen Venture, 16-1 Chai-Yo, Sole Singer, 20-1 others.

1998: PUTUNA 3-8-4 M Roberts (4-1) I Balding 10 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: Ian Balding won this with Putuna 12 months ago and should be on the target this time via BORDER PRINCE (nap). The son of Selkirk showed plenty of promise on his final start as a juvenile (sixth to Mutaaweq in a big field at Newmarket) and shaped like a guaranteed future winner on his comeback at Kempton (7f) when running on strongly to be ½l second to Surprise Encounter. This extra furlong will suit and, given that none of his rivals look out of the ordinary, he looks something of a banker. Sole Singer, his stablemate, is likely to be seen to better advantage when tried over farther so the one for the forecast might be Kuster. He was given a sympathetic introduction at Leicester last term and, given his stable's record, is the type to leave that form well behind. Greenstone showed ability in four starts last term and finished off her campaign with a creditable fourth to Fragrant Oasis at Newbury. However, she is only small and lacks scope. Evergreen Venture is better bred than most and was not entirely disgraced behind Lujain at Newmarket (6f) in July. Victory Star is a half-brother to three winners, but he will be making a belated debut and has already been gelded.

4.45 RAC CLASSIFIED STAKES (£4,338: 1m 114yd) (15 runners)

601 (5) 00-611 STOPPES BROW 12 (B,F,S) (B & C Pennick) G L Moore 7-9-12 — R Brisland (7)
602 (10) 001-03 BOLD ORIENTAL 76 (F) (Uplands Bloodstock) J Hills 5-9-8 — J Fowle (7) 63
603 (14) 0551-0 DOM SHADEED 98 (Exors of the Late D A Shirley) R Charlton 4-9-8 — W Ryan 81
604 (12) 00300- EI EI 188 (S) (J Hetherington) G L Moore 4-9-8 — J Weaver 87
605 (4) 0600-5 NORTHERN SUN 104 (D,F,S) (J Humphreys) T Mills 5-9-8 — T Quinn 79
606 (6) 03000- TITAN 281 (G) (J & S Kelly) S Dow 4-9-8 — P Doe (3) 80
607 (11) 0200-4 ELBA MAGIC 13 (F,G) (G Mitchell) C Dwyer 4-9-5 — P McCabe 83
608 (9) 16200- FEEL NO FEAR 181 (F) (Antonio Royal) M Salaman 6-9-5 — S Drowne 80
609 (7) 06330- KINGSFOLD BLAZE 210 (Mrs P Oliver) M Haynes 4-9-5 — A Clark 64
610 (13) 136-50 PEACEFUL SARAH 13 (C,F,S) (Mrs B Sheils) R Ingram 4-9-5 — N Pollard (3) 79
611 (3) 0-10 CALLDAT SEVENTEEN 18 (Keith Harrison) P D'Arcy 3-8-9 — Pat Eddery 80
612 (8) 061- FULL EGALITE 167 (S) (S Hassiakos) W Haggas 3-8-7 — L Dettori 61
613 (15) 030-0 HOUND VENTURE 20 (Dr F Chao) S Woods 3-8-7 — N Callan (5) 74
614 (2) 5-314 GEVITY 25 (Lord H De Walden) W Jarvis 3-8-6 — Martin Dwyer 73
615 (1) 2000-4 WOORE LASS 18 (G) (Jimm Racing) R Hannon 3-8-4 — Dane O'Neill 81

BETTING: 11-2 Stoppes Brow, Full Egalite, 7-1 Dom Shadeed, 8-1 Elba Magic, Calldat Seventeen, Woore Lass, 10-1 Bold Oriental, Peaceful Sarah, Gevity, 16-1 others.

1998: GEE BEE DREAM 4-9-5 D Sweeney (3-1 fav) A Jarvis 7 ran

FORM ANALYSIS: Stoppes Brow has been in great heart on the all-weather, winning twice at Lingfield recently with authority. He should make a bold bid under his 7lb claimer but it could be that his stablemate, EI EI, having his first run for Gary Moore and ridden by Jason Weaver, plays the leading role. The four-year-old, who was with Barry Hills last term, kicked off last season with an emphatic win at Folkestone (7f, heavy ground). He failed to add to that tally but was often highly tried and rarely got the easy ground he favours. Underfoot conditions should be ideal here and this opposition lacks strength in depth. Peaceful Sarah is feared most. The daughter of Sharpo, winner of a maiden here last August (7f), shaped well on her return when a close fifth to Bomb Alaska on easy ground at Doncaster before disappointing on faster going at Leicester last time. She will appreciate any further rain. Woore Lass and Elba Magic both ran creditably on their reappearances (at Nottingham and Leicester respectively), while the booking of Frankie Dettori for Full Egalite, who broke his duck on soft ground at Brighton (6f) in November, catches the eye.

☐ The meeting at Catterick today is subject to a 7.30am inspection. The going at the North Yorkshire track was described yesterday as soft, heavy in places. John Gundill, the clerk of the course, said: "We are raceable at the moment but as much as a further inch and a half is forecast to fall between now and tomorrow morning. Given that water is just beginning to stand on parts of the track it makes sense to inspect."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Pontefract

Going: soft

2.20 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, **Homestead** (L Newman, 10-1); 2, Johnnie The Joker (16-1); 3, Classic Colours (9-1). 4, Beau Roberto (12-1). Es Go 100-30 fav. 17 ran. NR: Seconds Away. 6l, 1½l. R Hannon. Tote: £5.60; £2.20, £2.90, £2.60, £2.40. DF: £41.20. CSF: £150.02. Tricast: £1,350.32.

2.50 (6f) 1, **Birchwood Sun** (J Weaver, 10-1); 2, Dandy Regent (33-1); 3, Principal Boy (11-1). Magic Powers 100-30 fav. 18 ran. 3½l, 1½l. M Dods. Tote: £11.50; £3.10, £18.90, £4.00. DF: £172.50. CSF: £309.82.

3.20 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, **Bangalore** (K Fallon, 16-1); 2, Truant (8-13 fav); 3, Gallery God (10-1). 9 ran. NR: Tammam. ¾l, 1½l. B Hills. Tote: £12.40; £2.50, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £7.20. CSF: £23.79.

3.50 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, **Cugina** (S Drowne, 7-2 co-fav); 2, Somayda (11-2); 3, Abyaan (7-2 co-fav). Glance (6th) 7-2 co-fav. 8 ran. 1½l, ¾l. G Balding. Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £14.40. CSF: £22.19.

4.20 (1m 4yd) 1, **Noshinator Lad** (D Holland, 10-1); 2, Cardoro (10-1); 3, Mawingo (14-1); 4, Holy Smoke (100-30 fav). 19 ran. NR: Hyde Park. ½l, 2l. B McMahon. Tote: £12.60; £2.90, £2.10, £3.30, £1.30. DF: £33.10. Tote Trifecta: £1,496.90. CSF: £100.10. Tricast: £1,352.15.

4.50 (2m 1f 22yd) 1, **Old Hush Wing** (A Culhane, 3-1 fav); 2, Jamaican Flight (10-1); 3, Mazzelmo (12-1). 4, Mudlark (12-1). 16 ran. NR: Indiana Princess. ½l, 1l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £4.30; £1.30, £2.70, £3.30, £2.20. DF: £19.70. CSF: £27.66. Tricast: £294.19.

5.20 (6f) 1, **Rosaum** (M Roberts, 25-1); 2, Pilgrim's Way (100-30); 3, Weaver of Words (13-8 fav). 8 ran. NR: Miss Sherna. ½l, ¾l. R Guest. Tote: £33.50; £3.80, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £109.60. CSF: £99.73.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £178,833.78 carried forward to Epsom today).
Placepot: £270.50. Quadpot: £6.60.

Folkestone

Going: soft

2.00 (5f) 1, **Charlelgh Keary** (J F Egan, 10-1); 2, Flyover (3-1); 3, Alabama Wurley (8-1). Baytown Harmony (5th) 11-4 fav. 7 ran. NR: Run Forrest. 4l, nk. J Moore. Tote: £10.10; £2.90, £2.00. DF: £10.60. CSF: £37.02.

2.30 (6f) 1, **Mexican Rock** (S Sanders, 10-1); 2, Cool Temper (14-1); 3, Elmhurst Boy (7-2). Barabaschi 2-1 fav. 16 ran. 8l, 3½l. J Toller. Tote: £13.00; £3.70, £3.50, £2.40. DF: £81.60. CSF: £136.37.

3.00 (1m 7f 92yd) 1, **Needwood Spirit** (S Sanders, 9-2); 2, Shepherds Rest (7-1); 3, Wontcostalotbut (2-1 fav). 13 ran. 1½l, nk. B Morgan. Tote: £5.90; £2.50, £2.50, £1.10. DF: £22.40. CSF: £36.93. Tricast: £80.21.

3.30 (7f) 1, **Contrary Mary** (A Clark, 8-1); 2, Indian Blaze (9-2); 3, Welcome Sunset (5-1). Oudalmuteena (5th) 7-4 fav. 12 ran. ½l, ¾l. J Akehurst. Tote: £11.30; £2.90, £2.00, £1.50. DF: £20.10. CSF: £43.48.

4.00 (7f) 1, **Rainbow Romeo** (R Cochrane, 14-1); 2, Cinnamon Lady (4-1); 3, Count Frederick (33-1). Democracy (6th) 6-4 fav. 9 ran. 6l, 1½l. Jamie Poulton. Tote: £23.90; £2.80, £1.60, £4.10. DF: £19.90. CSF: £63.18.

4.30 (7f) 1, **Kalanisi** (R Ffrench, 8-11 fav); 2, Compensation (3-1); 3, Haymaker (14-1). 7 ran. NR: Mellow Miss. 8l, nk. L Cumani. Tote: £1.90; £1.60, £1.10. DF: £2.20. CSF: £3.34.

5.05 (1m 4f) 1, **Golden Ace** (S Carson, 6-1); 2, Doctor Bravious (10-1); 3, Pay Homage (14-1). Imperial Prince 9-4 fav. 13 ran. NR: Esterelle. 2l, 2½l. R Spicer. Tote: £8.10; £2.40, £2.20, £4.00. DF: £30.20. CSF: £84.55. Tricast: £789.54.

5.35 (1m 1f 149yd) 1, **Goodbye Goldstone** (F Norton, 12-1); 2, Swampy (7-1); 3, Bishopstone Pond (33-1). Lucky Nemo 2-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Cedar Wells. 6l, 3½l. T Naughton. Tote: £13.80; £3.30, £2.50, £4.60. DF: £40.20. CSF: £87.29. Tricast: £2,513.04.

Placepot: £143.00. Quadpot: £9.40.

Chepstow

Going: heavy

2.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Saint Cecilie** (L Cummins, 12-1); 2, Ballynabragget (13-2); 3, Comiche (7-2). Aellys Conquest (4th) 5-4 fav. 11 ran. 9l, ½l. B Eckley. Tote: £17.10; £2.80, £1.30, £1.40. DF: £22.20. CSF: £71.13.

2.40 (3m ch) 1, **Belmorebruno** (A P McCoy, 12-1); 2, Baroncelli (7-1); 3, See Enough (10-1). Majors Legacy 3-1 fav. 10 ran. 6l, 13l. M Pipe. Tote: £13.80; £3.10, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £52.80. CSF: £83.19. Tricast: £795.37.

3.10 (3m ch) 1, **Mr Dow Jones** (Mr D O'Meara, 9-1); 2, Mister Horatio (5-1 jt-fav); 3, Saffron Moss (20-1). Kerry Soldier Blue 5-1 jt-fav. 17 ran. NR: Mr Mad. 2l, 29l. Mrs L Goldsworthy. Tote: £12.50; £3.60, £3.00, £3.10. DF: £70.20. CSF: £47.01.

3.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Atlantic Mist** (D Salter, 11-4); 2, The Brewmaster (10-1); 3, Krabloonik (3-1). Warm Spell (4th) 7-4 fav. 6 ran. NR: Virtuoso. 7l, 2½l. B Millman. Tote: £4.50; £1.80, £1.80. DF: £10.90. CSF: £24.51.

4.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Master Chuzzlewit** (B Powell, 33-1); 2, Sol Music (8-13 fav); 3, Dunnicks View (12-1). 4 ran. NR: Boulevard Bay. 11l, 6l. S Griffiths.

4.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Look Sharper** (B Powell, 13-2); 2, Enipeus (2-1 fav); 3, Batswing (9-4). 12 ran. NR: Brave King, Lightning Star. 3½l, 17l. R Buckler. Tote: £9.60; £2.10, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £8.40. CSF: £17.82.

Placepot: £22,015.40 - part won (pool of £10,253.76 carried forward to Epsom today). Quadpot: £782.60.

TOWCESTER SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs C Bailey, 12 winners from 17 runners, 70.6%; Mrs M Jones, 8 from 28, 28.6%; N Henderson, 9 from 40, 22.5%; Mrs J Pitman, 11 from 51, 21.6%; Miss Z Davison, 4 from 19, 21.1%; J S Moore, 5 from 25, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: B Pollock, 9 winners from 16 rides, 56.3%; M Fitzgerald, 15 from 70, 21.4%; J Magee, 5 from 25, 20.0%; A Thornton, 12 from 63, 19.0%; D Gallagher, 9 from 57, 15.8%; R Farrant, 5 from 35, 14.3%.

CATTERICK

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Palacegate Touch · 2.30 Abraka · 3.00 Sharp Edge · 3.30 Ardleigh Charmer · 4.00 *Doonaree* · 4.35 Picture Puzzle · 5.05 Oriel Star

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES (7.30AM INSPECTION)
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 IVAN LUIS APPRENTICES CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,066: 5f 212yd) (14 runners)

1 (12) 3315 PALACEGATE TOUCH 25 (B,BF,CD,F,G,S) J Berry 9-9-11 — P Bradley (3) 70
2 (7) 6050 SQUIRE CORRIE 6 (B,D,S) D Chapman 7-9-8 — S Carson (3) 86
3 (6) 00-0 BERNARDO BELLOTTO 21 (D,G) D Nicholls 4-9-5 — P Clarke (5) 75
4 (3) 4006 BLUSHING GRENADIER 2 (B,D,F,G,S) S Bowring 7-9-5 — C Teague 85
5 (11) 00-0 JUST BOB 6 (D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 10-9-5 — R FitzPatrick 82
6 (5) 5330 MIKE'S DOUBLE 11 (V,D) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-5 — A Polli 80
7 (4) 0053 SAN MICHEL 11 (B,G) J Eyre 7-9-5 — R Winston 63
8 (6) 400- PICCOLO CATIVO 149 (BF,G,S) Mrs G Rees 4-9-2 — Angela Hartley (5)
9 (14) 00-6 DANNY POWER 12 T Barron 3-8-8 — Kimberley Hart --
10 (9) 00-0 MANZONI 21 M W Easterby 3-8-8 — S Finnamore (5) 52
11 (1) 60-0 NEEDWOOD MINSTREL 16 B Morgan 3-8-8 — D Hayden (5) 63
12 (13) 3-42 OFF HIRE 21 (S) C Smith 3-8-8 — G Faulkner 76
13 (10) 00-0 CALL ME LUCKY 23 (D,F) M Brittain 3-8-5 — D Mernagh (3) 71
14 (2) -000 FAMILY TREE 76 (S) D Chapman 3-8-5 — C Carver (3) 74

7-2 Bernardo Bellotto, 6-1 Squire Corrie, 7-1 Off Hire, 8-1 Palacegate Touch, Just Bob, San Michel, 10-1 Blushing Grenadier, 12-1 others.

2.30 WOT-IF-WE SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,912: 5f) (10)

1 (5) HANDSOME DUKE M W Easterby 8-11 — T Lucas --
2 (9) ABRAKA J Wainwright 8-6 — G Parkin --
3 (2) BLUE SAPPHIRE D Barker 8-6 — T Williams --
4 (1) 2 FOXKEY 26 E Alston 8-6 — W Supple
5 (6) 0 FRENCH MYSTERY 26 (V) P Evans 8-6 — J F Egan --
6 (7) 60 HURTLE 14 M Wane 8-6 — R Lappin --
7 (4) LADY SANDROVITCH R Fahey 8-6 — R Winston (3) --
8 (10) 0 MELODIC HEIGHTS 26 J Berry 8-6 — J Carroll 25
9 (3) MOJACK W G M Turner 8-6 — G Duffield --
10 (8) SCHATZI D Moffatt 8-6 — C Lowther --

11-10 Foxkey, 4-1 Mojack, 5-1 Melodic Heights, 10-1 Lady Sandrovitch, 14-1 French Mystery, 16-1 Blue Sapphire, Hurtle, 25-1 others.

3.00 LEVY BOARD SPRING HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,915: 7f) (18)

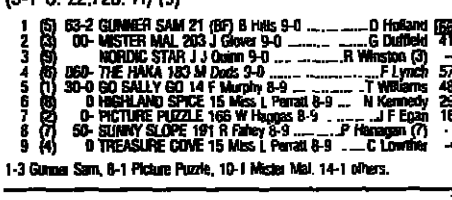
1 (9) 503- AT MY COMMAND 189 M W Easterby 9-7 — T Lucas 41
2 (5) 05-5 HADEQA 25 (B,F) P Evans 9-7 — J F Egan 67
3 (1) 00-0 SPRINGS NOBLEQUEST 7 (S) T Easterby 8-6 — L Charnock 56
4 (8) 6-06 APRIL ACE 20 (S) M Quinn 9-4 — A Culhane 71
5 (14) 00-1 GUEST OF HONOUR 21 (C,G) B Hills 9-4 — D Holland 56
6 (2) 000- RIGADOON 252 M W Easterby 9-2 — G Parkin 38
7 (17) -051 SHARP EDGE BOY 23 (S) E Alston 9-2 — W Supple 72
8 (13) 000- ELSIE BAMFORD 232 J Berry 9-1 — K Darley 46
9 (11) 54-4 ASH MILLSHAW 103 (S) R Hollinshead 9-0 — R Lappin 51
10 (4) 0-00 BY THE GLASS 16 (S) N Tinkler 8-13 — J McAuley (7) 73
11 (3) 004- GRIZELDA 181 J Bethell 8-13 — F Lynch 52
12 (12) -055 RISKY WAY 70 (CD,S) B Rothwell 8-12 — M Fenton 58
13 (6) 1300 CYRO 23 (D,S) D Nicholls 8-11 — G Duffield
14 (7) 605- PANDJOJOE 208 R Fahey 8-11 — R Winston (3) 58
15 (18) 40-0 BOLT FROM THE BLUE 16 N Tinkler 8-11 — Kim Tinkler 63
16 (10) 50-0 NEEDWOOD MERLIN 16 B Morgan 8-10 — Dean McKeown 54
17 (16) 50-0 THE DRUMMER 23 Miss L Perratt 8-7 — N Kennedy 70
18 (15) 00-0 THREE LEADERS 65 D Nicholls 8-6 — F Norton 57

5-2 Guest Of Honour, 7-1 Sharp Edge Boy, 8-1 Hadeqa, 10-1 Pandjojoe, 12-1 Grizelda, 14-1 Springs Noblequest, Elsie Bamford, Risky Way, Cyro, 16-1 others.

3.30 MOONAX HANDICAP (£5,004: 1m 3f 214yd) (12)

1 (1) 40-1 KATHRYN'S PET 21 (C,D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-10 — A Culhane 73
2 (12) 003- CRYSTAL FALLS 214 (D,F,G) T Easterby 6-9-9 — K Darley 83
3 (10) 210- FILIAL 124 (D,F,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 6-9-7 — G Duffield 66
4 (8) 30-0 COLWAY RITZ 16 (G,S) W Storey 5-9-7 — T Williams 86
5 (3) 0-21 ARDLEIGH CHARMER 11 (D,S) C Dwyer 4-9-5 — R Ffrench
6 (4) 100- HOUSE OF DREAMS 15J (CD,F,G,S) G M Moore 7-9-3 — D Holland 61
7 (6) 0-04 ASPIRANT DANCER 16 (S) M Bell 4-8-13 — M Fenton 82
8 (5) 2023 ALDWYCH ARROW 14 (F,S) M A Buckley 4-8-10 — J Carroll 89
9 (11) 50-0 THE PRESIDENT 14 (T) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-7 — J Fanning 64
10 (9) 05-0 HASTA LA VISTA 21 (B,CD) M W Easterby 9-8-6 — T Lucas 99
11 (7) 400- FREE 67J Mrs M Reveley 4-8-3 — Dale Gibson 81
12 (2) 160- TREASURE ISLAND 44J (S) F Murphy 4-8-0 — L Charnock 48

5-2 Kathryn's Pet, 11-2 Ardleigh Charmer, 6-1 Crystal Falls, 13-2 Aldwych Arrow, 7-1 Aspirant Dancer, 8-1 House Of Dreams, 12-1 Colway Ritz, 14-1 others.



4.00 RICHMOND CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £6,404: 1m 3f 214yd) (4)

1 (3) 1 DOONAREE 16 (D,G) M Johnston 9-4 — D Holland 77
2 (2) 66-1 TOTO CAELO 13 (D,G) B Hills 9-4 — K Darley 68
3 (1) 04-0 LARIMAR BAY 18 W Brisbourne 8-12 — T G McLaughlin 57
4 (4) 3110 WESTERN COMMAND 27 (BF,D) Mrs N Macauley 8-12 — Dean McKeown 64

11-10 Toto Caelo, 6-4 Doonaree, 4-1 Western Command, 50-1 Larimar Bay

4.35 PRINCE OF MY HEART MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,723: 7f) (9)

1 (6) 63-2 GUNNER SAM 21 (BF) B Hills 9-0 — D Holland
2 (3) 00- MISTER MAL 203 J Glover 9-0 — G Duffield 41
3 (9) NORDIC STAR J J Quinn 9-0 — R Winston (3) --
4 (8) 060- THE HAKA 183 M Dods 9-0 — F Lynch 57
5 (1) 30-0 GO SALLY GO 14 F Murphy 8-9 — T Williams 48
6 (8) 0 HIGHLAND SPICE 15 Miss L Perratt 8-9 — N Kennedy 29
7 (2) 0- PICTURE PUZZLE 166 W Haggas 8-9 — J F Egan 16
8 (7) 50- SUNNY SLOPE 191 R Fahey 8-9 — P Hanagan (7) --
9 (4) 0 TREASURE COVE 15 Miss L Perratt 8-9 — C Lowther --

1-3 Gunner Sam, 8-1 Picture Puzzle, 10-1 Mister Mal, 14-1 others.

5.05 WHITE MUZZLE HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £1,912: 5f) (18)

1 (11) 2005 AA-YOUKNOWNOTHING 6 (B,T,D,S) Miss J Craze 9-7 — S Webster 74
2 (13) 12-3 BEVELENA 9 (D,G) P Evans 9-6 — J F Egan 62
3 (6) 223- CHARLIE GIRL 187 (D,F) J Berry 9-4 — J Carroll 82
4 (7) 02-5 BOLLIN ROBERTA 18 T Easterby 9-2 — L Charnock 78
5 (9) 22-0 PIGGY BANK 16 (D,S) M W Easterby 9-2 — T Lucas 75
6 (1) 4321 AVONDALE GIRL 39 (D,G) C Dwyer 9-1 — F Lynch 77
7 (17) 16-0 SOUND'S ACE 6 (D,F,S) D Shaw 8-13 — J Fanning 70
8 (2) 50-0 ROSE'S TREASURE 22 (D,S) B Rothwell 8-12 — M Fenton
9 (16) 305- FOREIGN EDITOR 187 R Fahey 8-12 — R Winston (3) 60
10 (12) 000- BODFARI KOMAITE 166 (D,F) M W Easterby 8-9 — G Parkin 86
11 (8) -602 THORNABY GIRL 30 (D,G) T Barron 8-8 — K Darley 87
12 (4) 040- CLAUDIUS 208 K Ryan 8-6 — A McCarthy (3) 66
13 (18) 0-00 ORIEL STAR 23 (B,D,S) P Evans 8-6 — A Culhane 87
14 (14) 060- DISPOL PRESIDENT 254 P Calver 8-1 — J McAuley (7) 62
15 (10) 00-0 CHOK-DI 23 Mrs M Reveley 7-10 — P Fessey 78
16 (3) 3603 WEETRAIN 8 J Given 7-10 — C Cogan (7) 83
17 (15) 00-0 CLANTYRE 23 M Johnston 7-10 — M Henry 74
18 (5) 00-6 BUSINESS WOMAN 15 M W Easterby 7-10 — J Lowe 56

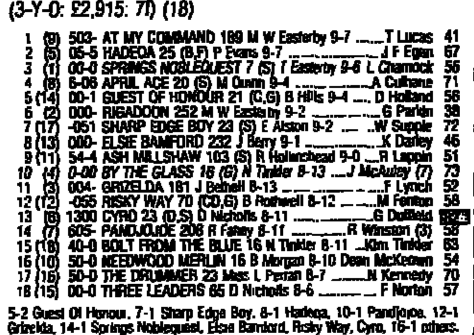
6-1 Bevelena, 8-1 Bollin Roberta, Sound's Ace, 10-1 Charlie Girl, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Glover, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; B Hills, 18 from 49, 36.7%; T Barron, 12 from 55, 21.8%; J Berry, 28 from 151, 18.5%; P Calver, 4 from 22, 18.2%; Mrs M Reveley, 13 from 77, 16.9%.

JOCKEYS: Kimberley Hart, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%; D Holland, 7 from 29, 24.1%; F Lynch, 9 from 41, 22.0%; K Darley, 25 from 133, 18.8%; J Egan, 7 from 50, 14.0%; C Lowther, 6 from 44, 13.6%.

TOWCESTER



ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Stamford Hill · 2.40 The Campdonian · 3.15 Come On Eilish · 3.45 Trade Dispute · 4.20 Gale Toi · 4.50 Take My Side · 5.20 Summer Flower

Carl Evans: 3.45 Trade Dispute. 4.20 Gale Toi.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

2.10 TOWCESTER MEANS BUSINESS NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,786: 2m) (18 runners)

1 2P32 INCLINATION 16 (BF,S) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-2 — Mr S Stronge (7)
2 0310 STAMFORD HILL 16 (B,BF,S) M Pipe 4-11-1 — R Greene
3 0-00 CHADWICK BANK 103 G McCourt 5-11-0 — E Husband
4 0 DOCTOR HICKS 16 L Wordingham 5-11-0 — S Curran
5 -04P MONTONE 18 Mrs C Hicks 9-11-0 — M Keighley (7)
6 00P0 RATHURE 54 (F) J Curtis 7-11-0 — O McPhail (5)
7 FPD ROBBIE'S ADVENTURE 8 D Williams 5-11-0 — D Griffiths
8 0- SPONDULICKS 14F B Baugh 5-11-0 — Gary Lyons
9 00 BALLYWOODEN 23 J Norton 5-10-9 — C Rafter (7)
10 00 FINAL CHANCE 16 C Tizzard 5-10-9 — J Tizzard
11 0- GO FOR IT SWEETIE 571 B Leavy 5-10-9 — W Worthington
12 MRS PEEL M Usher 7-10-9 — R Farrant
13 40 INN ON THE PARK 18 S Dow 4-10-8 — M A Fitzgerald
14 P SABRE BUTT 98 (B) M Tompkins 4-10-8 — D Yellowlees (7)
15 PF0 TRUST GEORGE 26 C Kellett 4-10-8 — Mr R Armson
16 50 HAMERKOP 28 Joan Berry 4-10-3 — V Smith
17 023 IN GOOD ORDER 28 G L Moore 4-10-3 — P Hide
18 6 MISS CHIQUITA 11 (B) J S Moore 4-10-3 — J Magee

5-2 Stamford Hill, 11-4 Inclination, 7-1 In Good Order, 8-1 Montone, 10-1 Inn On The Park, 16-1 Mrs Peel, 20-1 Doctor Hicks, Rathure, Spondulicks, Sabre Butt, Miss Chiquita, 25-1 others.

2.40 TOWCESTER RACECOURSE NOVICES CHASE (Div I: £2,635: 2m 6f) (10)

1 2510 ORPHAN SPA 79 (S) G McCourt 8-11-9 — E Husband
2 0304 THE LADY SCORES 16 (S) S Dow 7-11-4 — W Marston
3 -02P COULIN LOCH 29 (D,F) Miss E England 10-11-2 — E Byrne
4 P0P6 DESLA'S DEVIL 14 (F) J P Smith 7-11-2 — Gary Lyons
5 -00P KING OF BABYLON 16 (F) F Jordan 7-11-2 — Guy Lewis (3)
6 055- NATIONAL FIASCO 357 (S) C Popham 6-11-2 — Mr S Stronge (7)
7 4202 THE CAMPDONIAN 14 O O'Neill 8-11-2 — V Slattery
8 4P53 DUNNICKS COUNTRY 15 C Tizzard 9-10-11 — J Tizzard
9 0253 MURBERRY 35 (F,G) Mrs I McKie 5-10-11 — S Curran
10 P-6P RED RIVER 97 (B) C Drewe 8-10-11 — R Thornton

6-4 The Campdonian, 9-2 Orphan Spa, 6-1 Murberry, 7-1 Dunnicks Country, 10-1 The Lady Scores, National Fiasco, 14-1 Coulin Loch, 16-1 others.

3.15 WINNING FORMULA FOR WEDDINGS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,863: 2m 5f) (18)

1 56P5 DERRA GLEN 18 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-10 — C Maude
2 -545 TROUBLED MAN 15 N Henderson 8-11-7 — M A Fitzgerald
3 5452 RICHIE'S DELIGHT 32 (S) G Hubbard 5-11-7 — R Thornton
4 1285 TYLO STEAMER 16 (S) D Williams 7-11-6 — B Powell
5 4510 WESTCOAST 28 (B,D,S) M Tate 8-11-4 — J Mogford (7)
6 /P05 OTAGO HEIGHTS 16 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 — A Thornton
7 550P BAD BERTRICH 55 (V,F,S) G Roe 8-10-10 — T Jenks
8 4352 ROYAL RULER 51 J Gifford 9-10-9 — P Hide
9 0P00 DUNABRATTIN 18 (V) D Thom 6-10-8 — C Webb
10 /043 SLIDE ON 29 (V,G) P Evans 9-10-8 — Mr R Forristal (5)
11 P34P BROWN SEAL 16 Mrs M Jones 7-10-8 — D Gallagher
12 0255 REDGRAVE WOLF 16 (B) K Bishop 6-10-7 — R Greene
13 0006 FOGGY 28 J Norton 6-10-5 — C Rafter (7)
14 1P04 COME ON EILISH 41 (CD,S) J Upson 6-10-5 — J Supple
15 0-3P HIGHFIELD GENT 137 M Wilkinson 6-10-3 — W Marston
16 -000 PROLIFIC AGENCY 111 Mrs S Lamyman 6-10-3 — R Farrant
17 5380 HYDEMILLA 11 Mrs T Pilkington 9-10-0 — V Slattery
18 060P LIME STREET BLUES 60 M Sheppard 8-10-0 — J Goldstein (3)

5-1 Troubled Man, 6-1 Richie's Delight, 7-1 Westcoast, 8-1 Royal Ruler, 10-1 Slide On, Come On Eilish, 12-1 Brown Seal, 14-1 others.

3.45 LAND ROVER GENTLEMANS CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTERS CHASE (£4,124: 3m 1f) (8)

1 3111 TRADE DISPUTE 15 (D,F,G,S) E W Tuer 7-12-7 — Mr G Tuer (7)
2 1312 WINTER BELLE 24P (B,BF,D,G,S) Miss J Pidgeon 11-12-7 — Mr R Shepherd-Cross (7)
3 P111 AVOSTAR 16 (B,CD,G,S) Mrs C Bailey 12-12-4 — Mr B Pollock
4 3112 LIE DETECTOR 10P (F,G) Jon Trice-Rolph 11-12-4 — Mr J Gasper (7)
5 PP51 MILL O'THE RAGS 11P (T,C,F,G) N King 10-12-4 — Mr N King (7)
6 U-11 BAGALINO 10P (F,G,S) T Forster 9-11-9 — Mr R Bevis (7)
7 2F21 GRECIAN LARK 4P (B,F,G,S) G J Tarry 11-11-9 — Mr G Tarry (5)
8 1115 KNIGHT OF PASSION 32P (BF,G,S) P Tizzard 7-11-9 — Mr M G Miller (5)

9-4 Trade Dispute, 7-2 Avostar, 9-2 Bagalino, 6-1 Knight Of Passion, 8-1 Grecian Lark, 12-1 Winter Belle, Lie Detector, 14-1 Mill O'The Rags.

4.20 HARTWELL LAND ROVER HUNTERS CHASE (£1,702: 2m 110yd) (16)

1 4U10 GALE TOI 13 (D,G,S) Miss C Elliott 10-12-5 — Mr P York (7)
2 -0PP ARABIAN BOLD 21 (T,D,F,G,S) F Matthews 11-12-0 — Mr P Cranmer (7)
3 PU32 CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 21 (F,G) Mrs S Mullins 9-12-0 — Mr T Smith (5)
4 /22P FORMAL INVITATION 13 (D,F,G) D Maybury 10-12-0 — Mr J M Pritchard (3)
5 P22U HALHAM TARN 21 (T,D,S) G Brown 9-12-0 — Mr A Charles-Jones (3)
6 1123 HEE'S A DANCER 11P (BF,D,F,G,S) R Wilcox 7-12-0 — Mr D S Jones (3)
7 5444 JACK THE TD 10P (C,G,S) J Cornwall 10-12-0 — Mr J R Cornwall (7)
8 1/P- LORD KILTON 348 (F) Mrs D Cowley 11-12-0 — Mr M Cowley (7)
9 3-PP MINE'S AN ACE 32P (B,CD,F,G,S) Mrs R Vickery 12-12-0 — Miss S Vickery (3)
10 6143 PREMIER FIRST 11P (G) N Pewter 10-12-0 — Mr G Pewter (7)
11 PPP4 RUSTIC GENT 10P (D,F,S) S Lewis 11-12-0 — Mr C R Weaver (5)
12 0-P4 SAVUTI 16 (F,G) G Brown 10-12-0 — Mr T Gibney (3)
13 U166 SUPER SHARP 187 (D,F,G) M Evans 11-12-0 — Mr S Stronge (3)
14 1-PP WOTANITE 16P (F) Lucy King 9-12-0 — Mr E Walker (7)
15 P443 CANDLE GLOW 10P (F,G,S) P Hutchinson 11-11-9 — Mr S Morris (7)
16 UP/P WILL IT LAST 15 (S) M Hill 13-11-9 — Mr H Hankey (7)

11-4 Formal Invitation, 7-2 Conti D'estruval, 4-1 Gale Toi, 8-1 Hee's A Dancer, 12-1 Mine's An Ace, 14-1 Rustic Gent, 16-1 Halham Tarn, Jack The Td, Super Sharp, Candle Glow, 20-1 others.

4.50 TOWCESTER RACECOURSE NOVICES CHASE (Div II: £2,616: 2m 6f) (9)

1 P221 ROYAL TOMMY 16 (B,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-9 — J A McCarthy
2 3PU0 BUBBLES GALORE 18 T D McCarthy 8-11-2 — O Burrows (5)
3 5660 EDSTONE 2 (B) J Curtis 7-11-2 — W Marston
4 2PP2 MERRY SHOT 18 (B,G) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-2 — A Thornton
5 PP OWNER'S DELIGHT 104 G Hubbard 6-11-2 — C Honour (7)
6 3530 TAKE MY SIDE 28 (S) M J Roberts 7-11-2 — T Peoples (7)
7 P4P0 GUIGNOL DU COCHET 29 (B,T) Miss L Richards 5-11-1 — B Powell
8 GP22 MOONLIGHTER 35 C Jackson 9-10-11 — R Bellamy
9 PP65 THE BIZZO 140 J Panvert 8-10-11 — J Goldstein (3)

9-4 Royal Tommy, 3-1 Take My Side, 7-2 Moonlighter, 4-1 Merry Shot, 10-1 Guignol Du Cochet, 20-1 Edstone, 25-1 Bubbles Galore, 33-1 others.

5.20 TOWCESTER FOR CONFERENCES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,933: 2m) (17)

1 2F30 MERSHGINER 14 S Sherwood 6-11-11 — H Oliver (5)
2 P0F6 PRANCING BLADE 14 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6 — C Maude
3 20P3 DUNSTON BILL 15 B Leavy 5-11-4 — W Worthington
4 -146 WILD HADEER 18 (D,S) J Upson 5-11-4 — J Supple
5 F304 HURRICANE JANE 18 M J Roberts 7-11-2 — T Peoples (7)
6 040 MALBAUM 57 D Bridgwater 5-11-0 — B Powell
7 0R00 DURNFORD BAY 14 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-13 — T Jenks
8 1500 BAYYADI 35 (F) D Gandolfo 4-10-12 — B Fenton
9 1000 CHIEF MOUSE 68 (D,F,G,S) F Jordan 6-10-11 — M A Fitzgerald
10 5605 INNER LIGHT 16 B Pearce 4-10-10 — M Batchelor (5)
11 0P05 OLABUD 44 J Gifford 7-10-6 — R Thornton
12 P0P0 MERLINS BAY 62 J Gifford 5-10-6 — P Hide
13 4861 SUMMER FLOWER 16 (CD,F,S) Miss Z Davison 9-10-5 — Mr A Irvine (7)
14 000 ELEGANT FAN 12 (T) W Storey 4-10-2 — R McGrath
15 6800 DISTINCT FLYER 23 (T) A Turnell 4-10-2 — D Gallagher
16 060P SOVEREIGN 61 J Panvert 5-10-0 — S Curran
17 -U20 SUMMER VILLA 154 (B,F) Miss A Stokell 7-10-0 — J Power (7)

9-2 Prancing Blade, 5-1 Summer Flower, 11-2 Dunston Bill, 7-1 Wild Hadeer, 8-1 Hurricane Jane, 10-1 Mershginer, Chief Mouse, 12-1 others.

Schmeichel leads from the back

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES
Sports Feature Writer of the Year

Over the past eight years, he has been the best, the most consistent, the most influential player in the FA Carling Premiership. He has also been undervalued, underappreciated, misunderstood: but the hell with that. If people were to start understanding goalkeepers, the goalkeepers would have to find something else to do.

They give the awards to the outfield players, to the goalscorers, and that is part of the way things are. A goalkeeper understands that and accepts it. His reward is the private knowledge of his own lonely contribution and the certainty that he is the one to be blamed when things next go wrong. Goalkeeper is not the position for a well-adjusted person.

If there was a moment when a season seemed to stop and turn on a sixpence, though, it was when Peter Schmeichel made that penalty save from Dennis Bergkamp last week, as Manchester United beat Arsenal in the FA Cup. A penalty save is the one feat for which a goalkeeper wins lavish praise and Schmeichel is the first to say that there is always a good deal of luck involved.

The fact, though, is that Schmeichel beat Bergkamp at football's great game of paper-scissors-stone. Intuition, homework and his own stronger will made the save happen: Schmeichel's correct guess, Bergkamp's placing the ball at the height that Schmeichel wanted.

Students of the goalkeeper's art know the save in the same match from Ronny Johnsen's inadvertent deflection was, technically, a great deal harder. But in the drama of the penalty save, a goalkeeper, for once, is centre stage for something other than an error. The save told the team that the force was with them and Ryan Giggs's goal was a great player's response to the massive contribution of his better.



Diving force: Schmeichel shows the reflexes and awareness that keep him and Manchester United at the top of the game

Schmeichel's work this season has been all the more admirable for his indifferent form at the season's start. For most players, a run of poor form is mostly a private matter. A goalkeeper, by definition, is the lonely individual in a team game, yet his own poor form affects every other person in the side in the most direct fashion possible.

A striker who misses an open goal is embarrassed, but a goalkeeper who makes an error that leads to a goal is humiliated. A striker might get a second chance to score: a goalkeeper never gets a second chance to save. It is the difference between a sin of omission and a sin of commission. A goalkeeper's errors are always in the second, more heinous category.

Schmeichel, though, turned his poor form around. His achievements, particularly in the European games — the focus for Manchester United's most frenzied efforts — have been majestic, notably in the two matches against Internazionale and in the first against Juventus. He will need all that form and more, one suspects, in the second match against Juventus tonight.

Manchester United have been the dominant force in English football over the past half-dozen seasons and Schmeichel has been the best player in the side. You can do a lot of breaking down of his talent: agility, reflexes, command of the air, timing, ability to delay commitment until very late.

> ‘His greatest quality is certainty, shown most clearly in one-on-ones’

But his greatest quality is that of certainty, and that is shown most clearly in one-on-one situations. Very, very rarely have I known this moment myself, in my own goalkeeping days, smallest of small-time. And yet I shall never forget it, for it is one of the most intoxicating feelings in football. I can remember just one or two moments of seeing a striker come towards me with every advantage and seeing him all of a sudden look helpless, giving up before he has started. He knows that the keeper has got it right, that there is no route to goal.

That is what Schmeichel does on a regular basis at the highest possible level. He imposes a kind of moral authority on the game: the great saves are made not with his hands but with his aura. I remember that a striker once accused Peter Shilton of selling dummies to strikers. Shilton denied this. "But perhaps it seems like that to the striker." Schmeichel's ability also works in this impossibly rarefied way.

At its best, his talent is pre-emptive: the save is made before the shot is released. The save is the last resort, the third line of defence. The first is his vision and his command over the defenders in front of him, the second his own positioning and movement.

Many of the saves have been brilliant, but that is the fire-brigade stuff. His fire prevention is every bit as important and what he prides himself on most. Schmeichel leaves Manchester United at the end of the season. This will give great sorrow to all those who love the high and lonely art of the goalkeeper. He was never once made footballer of the year, as he should have been. He gets my vote of footballer of the decade instead.

Record of Foulkes is ready to be broken

By Our Sports Staff

PETER SCHMEICHEL will equal Bill Foulkes's record of 35 European Cup appearances when he lines up against Juventus in the semi-final, second leg in Turin tonight. The Denmark goalkeeper knows that, barring accidents, he will overtake the centre half's mark if Manchester United are victorious, but believes that, in any case, he will be soon overtaken.

Schmeichel has already surpassed Alex Stepney's record of 174 clean sheets for United, but even if United reach the final he feels that he would not hold the record outright for long, because Denis Irwin has made just two fewer appearances and Gary Neville three.

"I'm always happy to set a record and I think all players are," Schmeichel said. "However, at most I can only play two more European Cup matches for Manchester United, including this one, and I've got players like Gary Neville and David Beckham right behind me. So I would say that this record is just on loan."

Schmeichel retains a sense of modesty about such issues and does not believe that he deserves to be compared with one of the leading lights of United's 1968 European Cup-winning side.

"You can't compare me with him and what we have done for Manchester United, because in his time it took many successful seasons to play that many games in the European Cup," he said.

"Nowadays, when you qualify for the Champions' League, you are guaranteed six matches in the group stages. So, in that way, it has been easier for me to match his number of games."

Schmeichel, who is leaving Old Trafford in the summer because of the demands of the English game, claims that he is coping well with the club's hectic run-in. He has fully recovered from his groin injury and claims that he could have played in the 3-0 victory over Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday that kept United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership.

"I could have played if Alex Ferguson had wanted me to and I'm ready for Juventus," he said.

Man in van with sporting world at his fingertips

Russell Kempson goes behind the scenes on a big night for ITV

Roger Philcox squeezes his portly frame into a swivel chair in the back of the darkened van at Old Trafford. A bank of screens flickers in front of him. Geneva control centre prattles away and New York is calling. Philcox twiddles a few knobs, chats back and takes stock, the world at his fingertips.

Suddenly, a flash of sparks lights up the gloom. The electric heater has blown up. Philcox pauses, startled, then kicks it. "When in doubt, use the technical approach," he said, laughing. On such moments does the smooth running of global television depend.

Philcox, 59, is ITV's technical producer, the man who ensures that sport's finest spectacles are transmitted without hitch to the pubs, clubs and living rooms of little England. "Our lords and masters buy the events," he said. "It's up to me to make sure the sound and pictures, from wherever in the world, get back to them. If we have to apologise for loss of either, I'm a failure."

With ITV the host broadcaster for the first leg of the European Cup semi-final between Manchester United and Juventus two weeks ago, about 60 countries, from Australia to Cyprus, took the live feed from 16 match cameras and in 30 languages. The Swiss-German commentator may have fluffed his pre-match lines, his Russian counterpart mysteriously never made it to Old Trafford and Yugoslav TV, predictably, had "operational" difficulties, but little went wrong. Tonight, for the second leg, a similar outcome is expected.

"We might not be the hosts, but problems can still arise," Philcox said. "We'll have a strange power supply and will need our own satellite uplink."

Philcox travelled to Turin yesterday among the advance guard of five vans and 40 personnel. ITV2, the fledgeling digital channel, also has to be catered for and is again showing live Bayern Munich against Dynamo Kiev as it irons out the glitches before its shared coverage of the rugby union World Cup this year.

Since the 1-1 draw in Manchester, Philcox has been to the Brazilian Grand Prix and spent five days in Holland and Belgium on a "recce" for the 2000 European championship finals. After this evening, victory or defeat for United, he will fly to Barcelona to check the venue for the European Cup final; then on to Budapest, for England's match against Hungary on April 28.

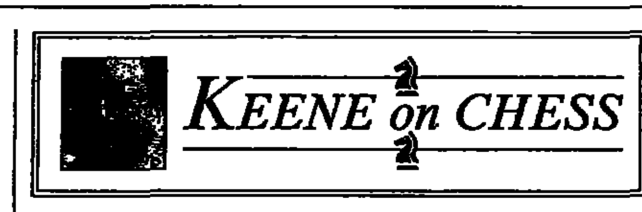
The jovial Philcox has traversed the globe "eight or nine" times in his 30 years in the business. He retires in July, technically, but will stay on in an advisory capacity. The walks with his dog, Bonnie, a 13-year-old corgi, around the Kent countryside, where he lives, will have to wait. "I enjoy the quiet, away from the broadcasters shouting at each other," he said.

"I'll shadow the new man for a while, hopefully teaching him a few things. If I'm as[illegible] to get on the 0600 to Hali[illegible] I'll say 'no', but if I'm wanted on the 10 o'clock to Rio, I'll go. Euro 2000 finishes two days before my 61st birthday and then I'll sail into the distance."



Philcox: master technician

Sheehan on Bridge



By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

One of the idioms you occasionally hear at the bridge table is that of "stripping a hand". This refers to a point of technique whereby you eliminate some of the suits from a hand, in order to reduce the options for a defender when he gets the lead. It may sound complex, but on the deal that follows Roselyn Teukolsky demonstrated a route to success by employing the technique perfectly.

Dealer West — **Love all** — **Teams**

North: ♠ K 5 2 ♡ 9 6 4 ◇ K Q 5 3 ♣ 10 6 4

West: ♠ Q 7 6 3 ♡ K Q 5 ◇ 10 ♣ A 9 8 7 3

East: ♠ J 9 8 4 ♡ 10 7 3 ◇ 9 2 ♣ K J 5 2

South: ♠ A 10 ♡ A J 8 2 ◇ A J 8 7 6 4 ♣ Q

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 D
2 C	2 D	3 C	3 H
Pass	3 S	Pass	5 D
All Pass			

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: ace of clubs.

Most players would have chosen to double rather than overcall with the West cards but it probably had no bearing on the final contract. Notice North's bid of Three Spades; having limited his hand at his first turn by the simple raise of diamonds, he had quite a respectable hand. The bid of Three Spades simply showed values in that suit, without committing the partnership to game.

As it happens, the auction persuaded West to lead the ace of clubs - a small slip which allowed declarer to make the contract, despite the unfavourable heart distribution. She ruffed the club continuation, played three rounds of spades, ruffing the third, then crossed to a top trump in dummy to ruff her last club. At this point she drew the last trump, ending up in dummy. Now she led the nine of hearts from dummy, covered by East with the ten and declarer with the jack. That left West on play. A heart return would give up the defence's trick there, and either black suit would allow declarer to throw a heart from dummy and cross-ruff the rest of the tricks.

Notice that on a passive spade lead declarer will probably win the ace and lead the queen of clubs from hand. It is easy for West to duck this and now a heart from East breaks up all the tension of the ending.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NOGHEAD
a. A drunkard
b. A type of bridle
c. An idiot

PARASCENE
a. Flat land for parachutists
b. The ancient green room
c. A secondary plot

PARAPHRAST
a. Heavily armed cavalryman
b. A person who paraphrases
c. An early type of umbrella

POOPNODDY
a. A type of sailing boat
b. A pointed hat
c. Teaser of idiots

Answers on page 54

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Adams' triumph

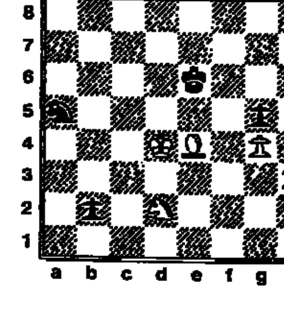
The top ranked British grandmaster, Michael Adams, has scored the greatest triumph of his life by finishing first and undefeated in the elite tournament at Dos Hermanas, in Spain. Adams outdistanced both the reigning FIDE (World Chess Federation), Anatoly Karpov, as well as two of the grandmasters regarded as likely challengers to Kasparov's throne, namely Vladimir Kramnik and Viswanathan Anand. Anand had a particularly disastrous tournament, finishing in a tie for last place. This column has already published most of the wins by the top two players in the tournament. Today's game completes that selection.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Miguel Illescas
Dos Hermanas 1999

Dutch Defence

	White	Black
1	Nf3	f5
2	d4	Nf6
3	c4	g6
4	g3	Bg7
5	b4	0-0
6	Bb2	c6
7	Bg2	Na6
8	a3	Nc7
9	0-0	d6
10	Nbd2	Kh8
11	a4	a6
12	Ne1	Qe8
13	Nd3	Be6
14	Rc1	g5
15	e3	Rd8
16	Qe2	Qf7
17	f3	Bc8
18	e4	fxe4
19	fxe4	Qh5
20	Qxh5	Nxh5
21	Rxf8+	Rxf8
22	d5	Bxb2
23	Nxb2	Bd7
24	a5	Nf6
25	Re1	e5
26	c5	dxc5
27	d6	Ne6
28	Nd3	cxb4
29	Nxe5	Nc5
30	Rc1	Na4
31	Nd3	Re8
32	e5	Bf5
33	Rf1	Bxd3
34	Rxf6	Nc5
35	e6	Rxe6
36	d7	Re1+
37	Rf1	Rxf1
38	Bxf1	Nxd7
39	Bxd3	Ne5
40	Bf5	c5
41	Be4	c4
42	Bxb7	b3
43	Nb1	Kg7
44	Bxa6	Nc6
45	Bxc4	Nxa5
46	Bd5	Kf6
47	Kf2	Ke5
48	Bg8	h5
53	Bd5	Ke5
54	Be4	Ke6
55	Kd4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Adams	*	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	6
2	Kramnik	½	*	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	½	5½
3	Topalov	½	½	*	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	5
4	Illescas	½	0	½	*	½	1	½	½	½	1	5
5	Gelfand	½	½	½	½	*	½	1	½	0	½	4½
6	Karpov	½	½	½	0	½	*	½	½	1	½	4½
7	Korchnoi	0	½	½	½	0	½	*	½	½	1	4
8	Anand	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	*	½	0	3½
9	Svidler	0	½	½	½	1	0	½	½	*	0	3½
10	Polgar	0	½	0	0	½	½	0	1	1	*	3½

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss.

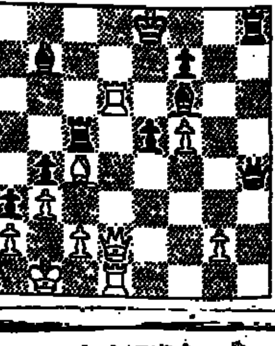
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Prasad - Becerra, Linares 1999. How did White now justify his piece sacrifice?

Solution on page 54

We apologise for the error in yesterday's diagram. The correct position will be published on Monday.



Record of Foulkes is ready to be broken

FOOTBALL

Fowler to miss England's trip to Budapest

By Russell Kempson

ROBBIE FOWLER'S season took another turn for the worse yesterday when it was announced that he would be unavailable for England's match against Hungary in Budapest next Wednesday. The Liverpool striker needs surgery to reset his broken nose, an injury sustained in an incident in a Liverpool hotel last weekend.

Fowler's domestic campaign has already ended, for after the 1-0 home defeat by Aston Villa on Saturday he began a six-match suspension, imposed by the Football Association, for his antics in matches against Chelsea and Everton.

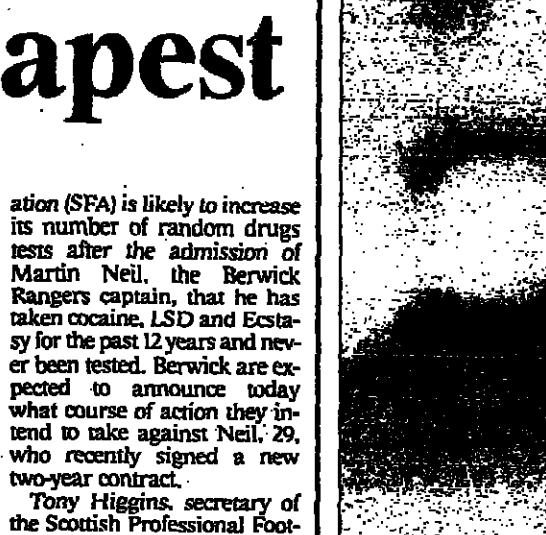
At Stamford Bridge, he questioned the sexuality of Graeme Le Saux, the Chelsea defender, with a series of bizarre taunts. In the Merseyside derby at Anfield, he celebrated scoring a goal by stooping to "sniff" the white lines on the pitch. He was fined by his club and the FA also ordered him to pay a fine of £32,000.

Kevin Keegan, the England coach, had been expected to name Fowler in his party, especially as his options up front may be limited. When he announces his squad tomorrow, several players from Manchester United and Arsenal are likely to be absent, freed to concentrate on club duties as the FA Carling Premiership title race nears its climax.

If Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, had his way, Alan Shearer, the England captain, would be absent, too. "I have my own interests to protect," Gullit said yesterday. "If Kevin is willing to let players from the title-chasing clubs stay at home, what's the purpose of the game? Players like Alan have had a hard World Cup and a hard season and he needs a rest also. I would like to rest him if I could. I would object if Alan was in the squad and players from the other big clubs weren't. It would not be fair.

"I wouldn't consider asking him to pull out, and I'm not making any sort of threat over this, but I can't wait to talk to Kevin. If he had been in charge all year and wanted to use the fixture to bring on some fringe players, then it would be OK, but that's not the case. The reason for the game is to develop his strongest team. If players aren't going to be there, it becomes pointless."

Fowler appears to have been the innocent party in the hotel fracas and could still be considered for England's European championship qualifying ties against Sweden and Bulgaria in June. "He will go in for his operation on Friday," Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said. "It will take another two or three days before he can start running."


Fowler: needs operation

The Scottish Football Association (SFA) is likely to increase its number of random drugs tests after the admission of Martin Neil, the Berwick Rangers captain, that he has taken cocaine, LSD and Ecstasy for the past 12 years and never been tested. Berwick are expected to announce today what course of action they intend to take against Neil, 29, who recently signed a new two-year contract.

Tony Higgins, secretary of the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association, said: "I'm sure that Neil's revelations will accelerate the number of random tests among players. The SFA make an assessment at the end of every season about the number of tests that have been taken. No numbers are made public but I'm certain the procedure will be stepped up.

"I'm sure Neil's case is a special one. However, it would be naive to think that some professional footballers don't take social drugs. Our message is quite clear: if you want to play professional sport, then don't take drugs."

Proposed changes to transfer regulations in the light of the Bosman ruling will not include allowing players or clubs to terminate contracts whenever they choose, Fifa, the world governing body, said yesterday.

"We are looking at the transfer regulations as a whole," a Fifa spokesman, Andreas Herren, said. "Fifa is looking to become European Union compatible but does not intend to touch the essence of the contracts. If a contract, out of mutual consent, is to be terminated unilaterally that is something between the parties — Fifa would certainly not institutionalise that."


Rebrov, of Dynamo Kiev, is a key figure in his side's push for victory in the European Cup but may wane as his knee injury bites in the later stages

Kiev insisting they are fit to do battle

By Rob Hughes

For Dynamo Kiev, the wait has been even longer than it has for Manchester United. The champions of Ukraine have never reached the European Cup final and in Munich tonight, their task appears monumental after the way Bayern Munich came back from a 3-1 deficit to draw the first leg 3-3 in Kiev.

However, Kiev, who eliminated Real Madrid, the holders, in the quarter-finals, have the quality; if only they can summon the nerve. In Kiev, the home side should have led Munich 5-1. They lost concentration, tired on a heavy pitch and Bayern rallied with typically German spirit. "It's not over," Valeri Lobanovsky, who has been with Kiev for more than 40 years as player and, now, a trainer, growled. "If we can score three times here, we can do it again."

With Andrei Shevchenko so quick on the ground and so precise in his finishing — he has netted 17 goals in 26 European Cup games — those are not hollow words, but, if Kiev can lose control once, they can do so again, and Lobanovsky is disingenuous if he says he does not fear Munich in their own Olympic Stadium.

As with United, Kiev's test is one of heart and mind and sinew. While Alex Ferguson waits for medical guidance on Ryan Giggs's injured ankle, Kiev weigh up the gamble on the sore knee of Sergei Rebrov. He is the catalyst to Shevchenko and, in the eyes of some observers, Rebrov, with his uncanny ability to think for Shevchenko, is the better all-round player. With Rebrov's small but crafty nature and Shevchenko's turbo-charged ability, the pair, in combination, can unhinge Munich's Lothar Matthäus and his two central pillars — Markus Babbel and Samuel Kuffour.

Rebrov should start the match come what may. Here, as in Turin, the judgment of the managers is critical. These are the times when the overambitious among their ilk are tempted to ask key performers to take pain-killing injections.

Once they do step over the line, the players have to temper desire with care. Kiev have already agreed to sell Shevchenko to AC Milan and may feel that this is their best, if not their only, time to conquer the Continent. Again, there is an affinity with United, because Kiev have to score away from home.

Bayern have 25,000 reasons to concentrate their minds. That, in pounds sterling, is the bonus that each player has been offered to reach the final. Matthäus may be 38, but the years drop away when money is on the table. He is such a winner, such a leader. "The European Cup is the best and the hardest competition to win in the world and we want it," he said yesterday. Matthäus might have added "again" because he has been there before, with Borussia Dortmund.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, who is again his mentor, having coached that same Dortmund side to victory in the European Cup two years ago, said: "The 3-3 draw gives us an advantage. Maybe it's 51 per cent to us at this moment, but we must be careful."

Careful and concentrated are the watchwords. Without Bixente Lizarazu, the adventurous France left back, and Giovane Elber, the Brazil striker, Bayern might be two talents short of what it takes to shock Kiev twice in a row. Their counter-attacking speed suggests that Kiev can upset the odds and win on the break and if Juventus approach the tempo, the thought and the movement of their first hour at Old Trafford in the first leg, a Kiev versus Juventus final is, seemingly, on the cards.

Arsenal are in fine fettle for final furlong

By Our Sports Staff

IN THE end, they may still not be able to do enough to remove Manchester United's steely grip from the other leading prize that Arsenal might have to hand over to the Old Trafford empire next month.

But Arsène Wenger, Dennis Bergkamp, Patrick Vieira and the rest of North London's finest can look back with pride today on the performance that proved that the Double-winners of last season do not know how to accept second-best.

Overwhelmed Wimbledon, one of only three sides to beat them in the FA Carling Premiership this season, were devastatingly dispatched 5-1 at Highbury by a vintage show from the now single-minded Arsenal. Five days after the despair of losing an FA Cup semi-final replay to their great northern foes, the air was filled again with the exaltation of the names of heroes.

Vieira scored the pivotal goal, the second for Arsenal, which sparked a series of four goals in nine minutes that simply blew away Wimbledon early in the second half.

Between a pair of strikes by Highbury's newest star, Kanu — the first officially debited as an own goal to Ben Thatcher, the Wimbledon defender — Bergkamp delivered the moment that he and 38,000 others had hoped and prayed for. Nigel Winterburn, the left back, combined with Emmanuel Petit to construct a swift thrust that allowed the mercurial Dutchman to shrug off the challenge of Alan Kimble and power his drive beyond Neil Sullivan.

The decibel level reached by the Arsenal fans when chanting his name before the kick-off, in a genuinely touching display of support for a man whose missed penalty in stoppage time at Villa Park had left him in the depths of a great depression, was matched by an explosive communal roar.

"We were so happy for Dennis when he scored," Vieira said. "But nobody ever doubted him. He was very down after the Manchester United match, but we all were and it was important for everybody that we proved again how strong we are."

Arsenal can go top of the Premiership for the first time this season if they win at Middlesbrough on Saturday. United, coming back from Turin, must wait until Sunday to take a crack at Leeds United, who are in fourth place, at Elland Road.

Arsenal visit Leeds on May 11, just six days after a challenging North London derby away to Tottenham Hotspur — on the night when United meet traditionally their fiercest rivals, Liverpool, at Anfield.

Saha suffers Wembley blow

■ LOUIS SAHA, the Newcastle United striker, has had his hopes of an FA Cup Final appearance severely reduced after fracturing his cheekbone during a collision with David Beharall in training. Saha, who is on loan from Metz, underwent surgery last night and Ruud Gullit, the manager, said he is likely to be out for three weeks, which will limit his chances of playing against Manchester United at Wembley.

IN BRIEF

■ Brighton, who have been playing at Gillingham since the sale of their Goldstone Ground, are to receive a £500,000 loan from the Football Trust to help to fund a temporary move to Withdean Stadium. The Goldstone venue needs improvements of £1.4 million.

■ The Scottish Premier League announced yesterday that the final fixtures of the season will kick-off at 12.30pm on Sunday, May 23. Under the original agreement signed 12 months ago between the Scottish Premier League and Sky Television, the matches were scheduled to start at 6.05pm.

■ Sunderland are set for an early test of their FA Carling Premiership credentials when they face Liverpool, who have won the league title a record 18 times, in a match to mark the hundredth Football League championship season. The game will be played at the Stadium of Light on May 18.

■ Christian Worns, 26, the Paris Saint-Germain defender, has signed for Borussia Dortmund, of the Bundesliga, for a fee of £3 million.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

European Cup
Semi-finals, second leg
Bayern Munich (3) v Dynamo Kiev (3) (7.45)
Juventus (1) v Manchester Utd (1) (7.45)

FA Carling Premiership
Liverpool v Leicester (7.45)
Sheff Wed v Newcastle (7.45)

Nationwide League
Second division
* Fulham v Millwall (7.45)
Third division
Scarborough v Leyton Orient
Swansea v Cambridge Utd (7.45)

Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Greenock Morton

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Paget v Clevedon; Solihull Borough v RC Warwick.
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Croydon v Canvey Island, Maidenhead v Yeading, Molesey v Chertsey. **Second division:** Banstead v Hertford
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Newcastle v Coventry (1.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Ipswich (2.0), Barnet v Portsmouth, Bournemouth v Swindon (2.0), Charlton v Brentford (7.0); Fulham v Reading (2.0), Watford v Northampton, Wimbledon v Gillingham, Wycombe v Cambridge (2.0), Oxford v Colchester; Queens Park Rangers v Brighton (2.0)
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Preston v Leeds (7.15); Stoke v Aston Villa (7.0). **First division:** West Bromwich v Burnley (7.0). **Second division:** Blackpool v Bradford (7.0); Huddersfield v Shrewsbury (7.0); Sheffield Utd v Rotherham (2.0), Stockport v Lincoln (7.0). **Third division:** Chester v Hull (2.0), Darlington v Wigan (2.0); Halifax v Bury (2.0), Walsall v Carlisle (2.0)
SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Eton Manor v Great Wakering.

CRICKET

PPP county championship
11.0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Kent
HOVE: Sussex v Northamptonshire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Glamorgan
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Lancashire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Surrey

11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Somerset

University match
11.30, first day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Essex

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Newcastle v Richmond (7.30)
West Hartlepool v Harlequins (7.30)

Welsh League
Premier division play-offs
Group A
Neath v Llanelli (7.15)
Group B
Aberavon v Caerphilly (7.0)
Bridgend v Newport (7.15)
First division
UWIC v Tredegar (7.0)

Anglo-Welsh club match
Cardiff v London Irish (7.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern Ford Premiership
Oldham v Featherstone (7.45)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First division: Featherstone Lions v Dudley Hill (7.30)

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

BOSTON MARATHON: Men: 1, J Chebet (Ken) 2hr 9min 52sec; 2, S Guerra (Ec) 2:10:18; 3, F Pooe (SA) 2:11:37; 4, A Chipu (SA) 2:12:45; 5, J Kagwe (Ken) 2:13:57; 6, P Githuka (Ken) 2:14:03; 7, A Kuznetsov (US) 2:14.19; 8, J L Molina (C Rica) 2:14.26; 9, R Maza (Ven) 2:14.40; 10, J Ondieki (Ken) 2:15:27. **Women:** 1, F Roba (Eth) 2:23.25; 2, F Rochat-Moser (Switz) 2:25:51; 3, Y Anmon (Japan) 2:26:39; 4, C de Reuck (SA) 2:27.53; 5, M Tenorio (Ec) 2:27:57; 6, C Ndereba (Ken) 2:28.26; 7, L Petrova (Russ) 2:29:12; 8, M Sugihara (Japan) 2:30.34; 9, R Paredowska (Pol) 2:31.40; 10, A Catuna (Rom) 2:33.49

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 1 Tampa Bay 4, Kansas City 4 Minnesota 6
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Milwaukee 2 St Louis 6, Colorado 11 Montreal 10; Arizona 3 Philadelphia 2; San Diego 0 Pittsburgh 3, San Francisco 5 Florida 4, Los Angeles 3 Atlanta 11

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Philadelphia 72 New York 67, Toronto 90 Orlando 72, Cleveland 87 Miami 94, New Jersey 113 Charlotte 120, Boston 104 Indiana 120; Houston 120 Seattle 113; Los Angeles Clippers 98 Sacramento 102, Los Angeles Lakers 117 Vancouver 102.

CRICKET

PPP COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: No play: First day of four: Derby: Derbyshire v Glamorgan. **Leicester:** Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire. **Lord's:** Middlesex v Lancashire. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Surrey. **Second day of four: Edgbaston:** Warwickshire 356-7 (T L Penney 73, K J Piper 66, D R Brown 55 not out) v Somerset.

ETON FIVES

ETON: Lord Aberconway Cup (fathers and sons championship): **Semi-finals:** P G and T Dunbar bt O and P N Markkanen 12-3, 12-1, A J and J Walters bt P J and J Rodwell 13-10, 13-11. **Final:** P G and T Dunbars bt A J and J Walters 12-2, 12-6, 12-1.

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Port Vale v Watford. **Second division: Postponed:** York v Blackpool, Notts County v Macclesfield; Northampton v Wigan. **Third division: Postponed:** Halifax v Scunthorpe, Darlington v Exeter.
FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Postponed: Leek v Welling.

Monday's late results
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal 5 Wimbledon 1
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Hednesford 2 Stevenage 2
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Emley 1 Chorley 0; Hyde 1 Leigh RMI 2. **First division:** Ashton 4 Gretna 2
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Redditch 1 Paget 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham 0 Gravesend 0. **First division:** Croydon 0 Maidenhead 0
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 3 Crystal Palace 1.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Stoke 1 Blackburn 0. **First division:** Oldham 2 West Bromwich 2. **Second division:** Sheffield Utd 0 Bradford 3. **Third division:** Carlisle 1 Scunthorpe 3.

MOTOR RALLYING

LLORET DE MAR, Spain: Catalonia Rally (after second leg). 1, P Bugalski (Fr, Citroën Xsara) 3hr 14min 33.1sec; 2, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota Corolla) at 17.7sec; 3, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota Corolla) 1min 43.5sec; 4, F Loix (Bel, Mitsubishi Carisma) 1.48.6; 5, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi Lancer) 2:9.2 (1min penalty); 6, R Burns (GB, Subaru Impreza) 3.17.6 (1min penalty); 7, J Kankkunen (Fin, Subaru Impreza) 3.25.8; 8, B Thiry (Bel, Subaru) 3:42; 9, O Gomez (Sp, Renault Mégane) 4:30.6; 10, L Climent (Sp, Subaru Impreza) 4.58.

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: Guy Salmon women's world championship (Great Britain unless stated): **First round:** B Sabbag (US) bt M Wright 6-1, 6-1, S Metherell bt J Watts 6-2, 6-1; K Leeming (Aus) bt C Southwell 6-2, 6-2; S Jones bt C Amies (Fr) 6-0, 6-0; P Wilson bt S Falkner 6-3, 6-0; C Walker bt S Owens 6-5, 6-3, A Garside bt J Newby 6-1, 6-0.

SHOOTING

BISLEY: Army target pistol championships: Air pistol: 1, Cpl R Doak (R Irish) 567pts, 2, SSgt L Wright (REME) 554. **Centre fire pistol:** 1, Lt Col R Hoole (R Signals) 536; 2, Pte W Carson (R Irish) 497, 3, LCpl W Kennedy 491. **Overall positions:** 1, Hoole 1,058, 2, Doak 1,043, 3, Wright 1,033.
BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa: World individual target rifle championships (after first day): Equal 1, E Claassen and J van Rooyen (SA) 446.20pts, 3, S Dunstall (Aus) 446.18. **British scores:** S Collings 441.19, A Ringer 440.13; J Webster 440.10.

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship: First round: M Stevens (Wales) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 10-7; J Wattana (Thai) bt M Fu (HK) 10-8; M King (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wales) 10-8. **Latest positions:** J Parry (Eng) leads S Davis (Eng) 7-2; M Williams (Wales) leads I McCulloch (Eng) 6-3.

SQUASH

HURGHADA, Egypt: WISPA World Grand Prix finals: Third-place play-off: C Jackman (GB) bt N Grainger (SA) 9-3, 9-2. **Final:** M Martin (Aus) bt C Owens (Aus) 9-4, 9-7, 2-9, 9-4.

TENNIS

MONTE CARLO OPEN: First round: T Muster (Austria) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-3, 6-4, D Pescariu (Rom) bt S Dosedel (Cze) 6-2, 6-1, I Ljubicic (Cro) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 5-7, 6-0, 6-1; A Costa (Sp) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-3, 6-4, T Enqvist (Swe) bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 7-5, 6-7, 6-2; R Delgado (Par) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 7-6, 0-6, 6-4; S Grosjean (Fr) bt S Prieto (Arg) 6-0, 6-4; J van Lottum (Neth) bt J Siemerink (Neth) 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, F Clavet (Sp) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-1, 6-0; G Kuerten (Br) bt M Carlsson (Br) 6-1, 6-3, F Mantilla (Sp) bt F Squillari (Arg) 6-2, 6-4, N Lapentti (Ec) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-1, 7-6, K Alami (Mor) bt S Schalken (Neth) 6-2, 6-3, J Novak (Cz) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-3, 7-5. **Second round:** F Meligeni (Br) bt T Henman (GB) 6-7, 6-4, 7-5, J Golmard (Fr) wo B Becker (Ger); V Spadea (US) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-3; M Rios (Chile) bt A Pavel (Rom) 0-6, 6-4, 7-6.

Wilkinson defends England's failure

By Our Sports Staff

HOWARD WILKINSON has insisted that England's disastrous World Youth Cup performance does not mean the country's young footballing talent has fallen behind the rest of the world.

Wilkinson, the Football Association technical director, believes the much-weakened England team that flew out to Nigeria earlier this month did not truly reflect the wealth of potentially world-class young footballers now prospering in the FA Carling Premiership.

England, without young stars such as Michael Owen and Jonathon Woodgate, who were allowed by the FA to stay with their clubs as the English season draws to a climax, failed to score in their three World Youth Cup matches, which all ended in defeat.

It was the worst record of any team in the tournament, but Wilkinson refused to be downcast. "I don't think the England performance in the under-20 championships in Nigeria would be taken by any serious student of the game as an accurate measure of where our young footballers stand in the world," Wilkinson said.

"The team that went out, as opposed to some nations who were out there, would not have been the best performers available to play there."

Wilkinson was speaking after the launch of the Coca-Cola Mini Soccer revolution, inspired by his own Charter for Quality, at Wembley Stadium in London yesterday. The seven-a-side scheme will replace full-size games for all players aged under ten.

SNOOKER: SIX-TIME WORLD CHAMPION MUST TURN ROUND 7-2 DEFICIT TO SURVIVE

Davis faces early departure

By Phil Yates

STEVE DAVIS, gracing the Crucible Theatre for the 21st year in succession, must dredge his reserves of determination to avoid immediate and ignominious elimination from the Embassy world championship in Sheffield this morning.

Davis, winner of the title on six occasions between 1980 and 1989, trailed Joe Perry, the world No 74, 7-2 after their opening session. It was reminiscent of the corresponding round in 1981, when Davis was astoundingly beaten 10-1 by Tony Knowles.

It began to go wrong for Davis in only the second frame. Leading by 37 with only one red remaining, he kissed the pink into the middle pocket in trying to escape from a self-imposed snooker. Perry cleared with 33 and salvaged the next, from a 61-0 deficit, with a 68 clearance.

The most startling error from Davis came in the fifth frame. Poised to steal it and reduce his arrears to manageable proportions at 3-2, he missed a straightforward blue to a middle pocket.

By now Perry was aware that Davis, at 41 the oldest competitor in the field, was struggling and piled on the pressure with breaks of 120 and 81 to move within three frames of progress on the resumption.

Motivated by national pride and with a keen sense that an opportunity had presented itself to resurrect his ailing career, James Wattana disregarded comparative recent form to defeat Marco Fu in the first round.

Wattana, a former world No 3 who appears destined to be relegated from the elite top 16 in the rankings next season, rediscovered the ability to win under pressure with a 10-8 victory in a game billed as the unofficial Asian championship.

With the exception of the Welsh Open in January, when he reached the quarter-finals, Wattana has found success hard to come by. His frustration was compounded six weeks ago when, shortly before a match against Ken Doherty in the Thailand Masters, he received an anonymous phone call that instructed him to "lose or be prepared to die". Wattana lost.

In contrast, Fu has made quite an impact in his first full season on the circuit. He was runner-up to Stephen Lee in the Grand Prix, he has climbed from 377th to 39th in the world rankings and has already constructed 30 century breaks in competition.

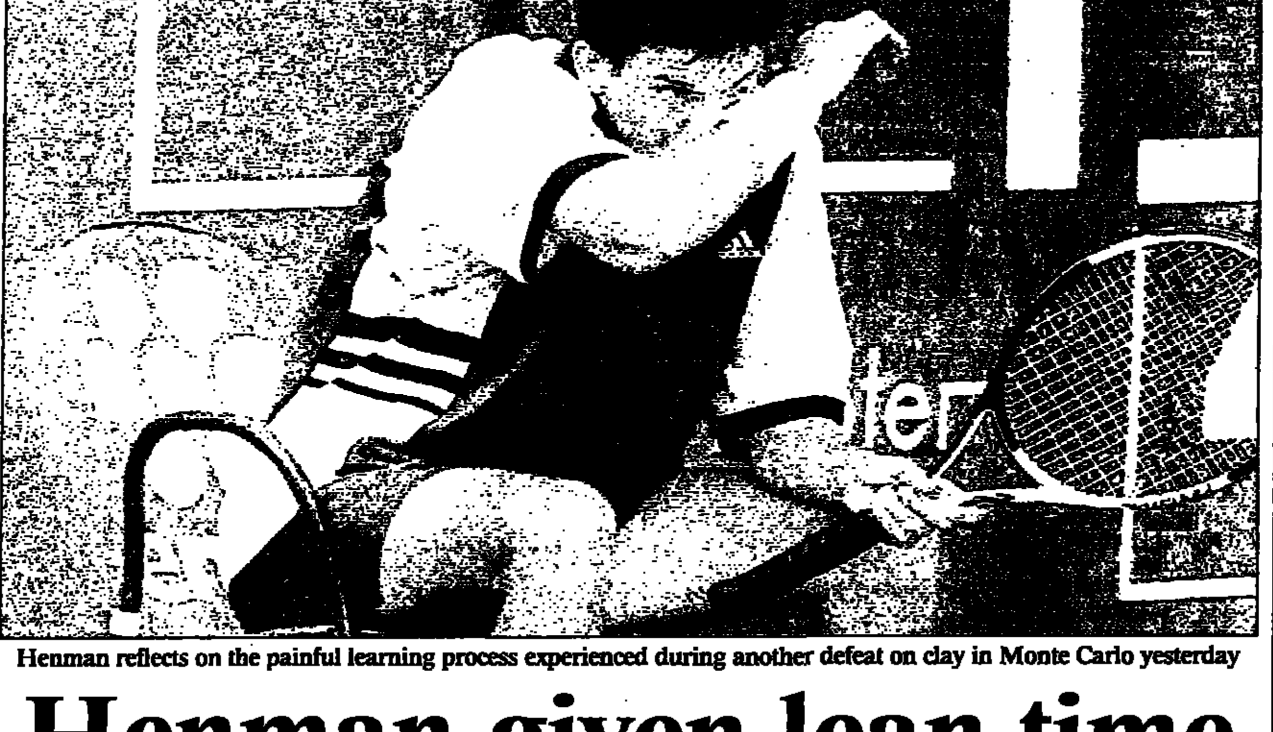
Consequently, Fu, the first player from Hong Kong to qualify for the Crucible, was the bookmakers' favourite. Indeed, they looked to have correctly assessed form when, after trailing 5-4 overnight, he took the lead for the first time at 8-7.

However, Wattana won the sixteenth frame with a run of 62 and launched an otherwise exceptional 136 total clearance in the next by fluking the initial red. The Thai duly secured a meeting with Stephen Hendry or Paul Hunter in the last 16 by protecting an early run of 40 in the eighteenth.

Mark King will supply the opposition for John Higgins, the title-holder, in the second round, having recovered from 8-6 down to beat Darren Morgan 10-8.

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.embassysnooker.com - official tournament site.
TELEVISION: BBC2, 1.10, 4.00, 6.45, and 9.30pm; BBC1, 2.30pm

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT





Henman reflects on the painful learning process experienced during another defeat on clay in Monte Carlo yesterday

Henman given lean time

TENNIS

From Alix Ramsay
Tennis Correspondent
in Monte Carlo

THE Monte Carlo Country Club here is one of the homes of tradition on the ATP Tour so it seems a little strange that Tim Henman, that very traditional of British gentlemen, is trying hard to fly in the face of it. One of the sport's great traditions dictates that putting a Briton on a clay court is a recipe for disappointment, if not disaster. After his gruelling defeat by Fernando Meligeni yesterday, Henman begs to differ.

At 28 and ranked No 51, Meligeni is never going to set the world alight, but on his day and on his surface he can grind down even the most confident of opponents. Coming from Brazil, clay is the surface Meligeni likes best. Not the most physically imposing of players — his nickname, Fino, means thin — he has the walk of a man who is never completely sure that his knees will bend in the right direction. Henman, however, is a new man this year. He has worked long and hard to learn the tricks of the clay-court trade and it is almost paying off.

He battled and scrapped to come back from early breaks in the first and third sets, and during the spells when his first service was hitting the mark, he was able to control the points and put away his volleys. He even held a match point as Meligeni served to stay in the match, but it was not to be his day and he eventually lost 6-7, 6-4, 7-5 after 2hr 38min. No matter, both he and David Felgate, his coach, believe that his day is not far off.

"I know my game on clay is a hundred times better than it has been," Henman said. "I'm really enjoying the practice and I feel ready to win. I need a few opportunities to come my way and I feel very ready to take them, and so there is no reason why I can't have a good run in some of these tournaments coming up."

Henman's problem is as much mental as physical and knowing when to go for the kill in long and protracted rallies does not come easily to him.

"When I want to win a game, that's when I can be a little impatient," he admitted. Whatever the result, a tennis match is still just a game and Boris Becker had far more important things on his mind yesterday. He was told on Monday night that his father, Karl-Heinz, had died after a long battle against cancer. "I am very, very sad," Becker said, announcing his withdrawal from the tournament.

"In this difficult situation I want to be close to my family." Andre Agassi was also on the first plane home, suffering from a shoulder injury, while Marcelo Rios looked likely to join him, dropping the first set 6-0 against Andrei Pavel, but he finally squeezed through 0-6, 6-4, 7-6.

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.mcopen.org - news, interviews and results
TELEVISION: Eurosport, 9.30am-4pm (Live)

MOTOR RALLYING

Bugalski kitted out for historic victory

From Jeremy Hart in Lloret de Mar

PHILIPPE BUGALSKI, a little-known Frenchman, held off the might of the world's leading rally drivers for a second successive day in the Catalonia Rally yesterday. The Citroën driver starts the final leg today, near Barcelona, with a 17-second lead from his compatriot, Didier Auriol, in a Toyota.

"I didn't think I could hold off the world rally cars today." Bugalski, whose kit car weighs under 1,000 kilograms, said. The world rally cars all weigh more than 1,200 kilograms and have four-wheel drive.

The only drivers able to beat Bugalski over the six stages yesterday were Tommi Makinen, the world champion, and Colin McRae, of Great Britain. McRae started the day 30 places off the fight for first after a turbo problem on Monday and was using the stages for a test session, which ended with the car almost back to its best. "It's a big improvement on yesterday. I hope now that we will be on the pace in Corsica next month," McRae said.

Richard Burns, Britain's other leading driver, in a Subaru, was one of three drivers penalised for jump-starting a stage yesterday morning. Makinen, in fifth place, was also punished.

Only rain or mechanical failure will now stop Bugalski from making history and winning a round of the world championship in a kit car. That prospect has the big teams in uproar.

EQUESTRIANISM

Tait chases elusive win

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zealand, the Olympic and world three-day event champion, heads a high-calibre field for the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton horse trials, which this year celebrates its fiftieth anniversary (Jenny MacArthur writes).

Tait, still seeking his first Badminton win, Mark Todd, the runner-up at Badminton and the world championships last year on Broadcast News, and Bettina Overesch-Boker, of Germany, on Watermill Stream, the individual silver medal-winner at the 1997 Open European championships, lead the foreign entry.

Christoper Bartle, the winner last year, Ian Stark, Kristina Gifford, Polly Phillipps and Gary Parsonage are among the British contenders for the £27,500 first prize at the event from May 6 to 9.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 52

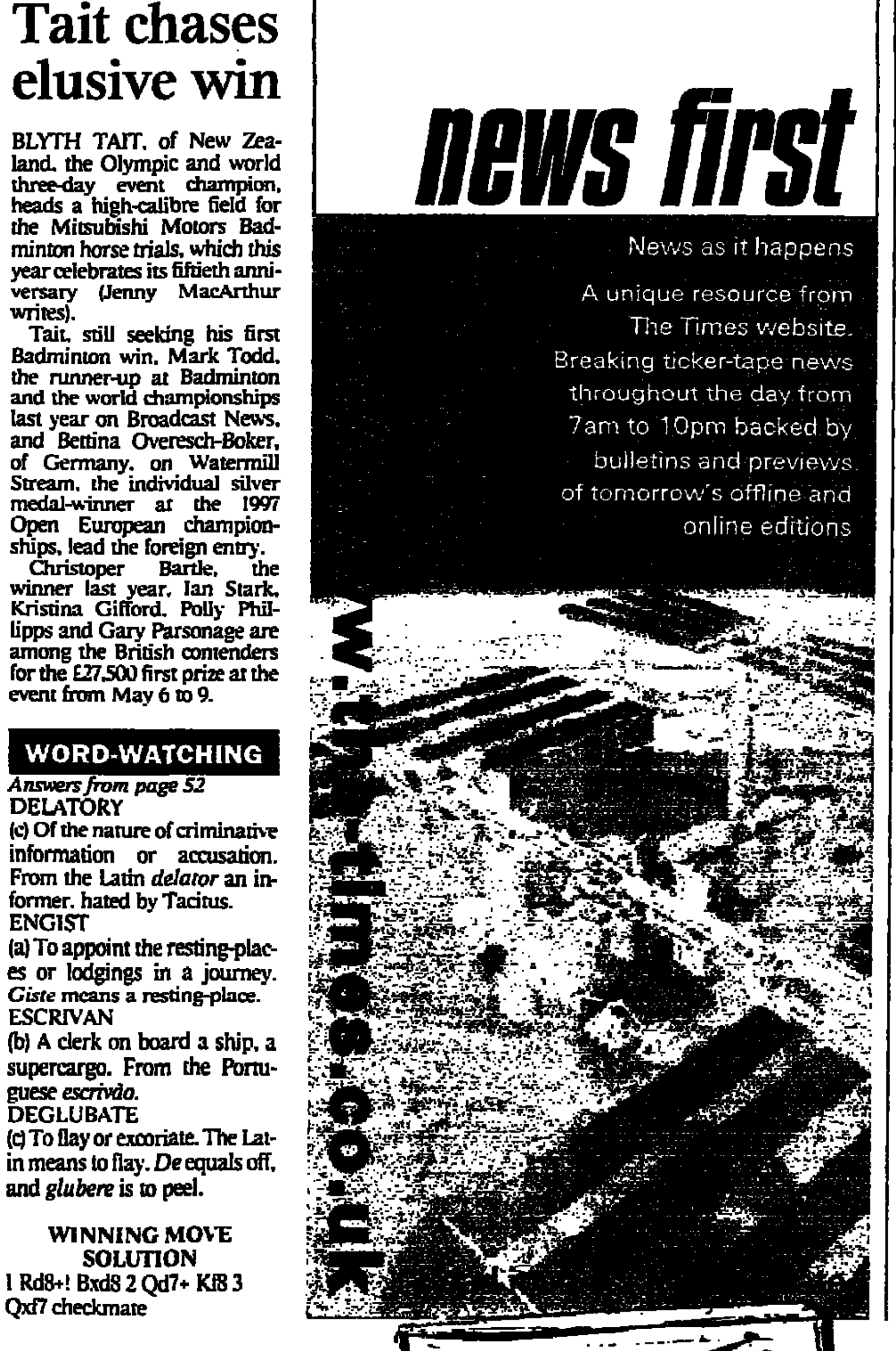
DELATORY
(c) Of the nature of criminative information or accusation. From the Latin *delator* an informer, hated by Tacitus.

ENGIST
(a) To appoint the resting-places or lodgings in a journey. *Giste* means a resting-place.

ESCRIVAN
(b) A clerk on board a ship, a supercargo. From the Portuguese *escrivão*.

DEGLUBATE
(c) To flay or excoriate. The Latin means to flay. *De* equals off, and *glubere* is to peel.

WINNING MOVE SOLUTION
1 Rd8+! Bxd8 2 Qd7+ Kf8 3 Qxf7 checkmate



TELEVISION CHOICE

The science of cricket

Tomorrow's World
BBC1, 7pm

With the World Cup beginning on May 14, *Tomorrow's World* takes a look at the science of cricket. Professor Brian Wilkins, a New Zealander and lifelong fan of the game, has decided to build a machine that examines the mechanics of bowling. His research reveals the effects that the weather can have on the delivery of the ball. Also, Peter Snow and Mike Gatting, the former England captain, test the controversial new white balls to see if they work in the same way as the traditional red ones. **Ian Hughes**

European Cup: Juventus v Manchester United
ITV, 7.30pm

Manchester United travel to Turin with Alex Ferguson's Holy Grail looking ominously elusive. Ryan Giggs's injury time goal levelled the scores at 1-1 at the end of the first leg of this semi-final, but the game was generally dictated by Juventus. Significantly, the Italians start tonight's encounter buoyed by the advantage of that away goal — scored by Antonio Conte — and are accordingly clear-cut favourites to prevail. **Louise Godfrey**

Leviathan
BBC2, 7.30pm

Michael Portillo and Ken Livingstone share a platform tonight in the cause of rehabilitating, or at least adjusting, the image of Oliver Cromwell, leader of the English republic and perhaps no less of a tyrant than the King, Charles I, for whose execution he was responsible. Their contributions were not available for preview, but Dennis Waterman's "potted history" (the BBC's pun) of snooker was. Tying in with this week's coverage of the World Championships, it does a reasonable job of summarising the history of the game

The Naked Chef: Hen Night
BBC2, 8pm

Laddish Jamie Oliver may be, but he's New Man enough to offer to cook for his sister's hen night and offer his utterly cool Central London apartment for the occasion. True to his intelligent and no-nonsense form, he offers an Italian bread, focaccia, with rosemary, olives and garlic, followed by baked (farmed) salmon with green beans, tomatoes, anchovies, olives and a basil aioli, and a lemon and lime cream tart. He and his unseen female interlocutor make it all seem eminently straightforward to prepare and the women, impeccably well turned out, lap it up.

Jamie Oliver presents no-nonsense cooking in *The Naked Chef* (BBC2, 8pm)

Spin City
Channel 4, 10pm

Michael J. Fox and Barry Bostwick return as the Deputy Mayor and Mayor of New York City in a new series of the increasingly flighty (who cares if it makes any sense?) sitcom. It now features a talking dog, Rags, the suicidal, geriatric pet of gay activist Carter (Michael Boatman), who is still reluctantly sharing an apartment with arch-conservative Stuart (Alan Ruck). Tonight Fox takes the credit for saving a child in an incident in Central Park but is then persuaded by the dog to tell the truth. Yes, I know. Bostwick's halfwit charm and the wilder excesses of the script will keep you watching. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

The BBC Orchestras
Radio 3, 2pm

Strange, isn't it, how the cinema can affect our involvement with classical music in a way that the composer never intended? Take Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 4*, the concluding work in this programme of recordings by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Whenever I hear it, I simply can't clear my mind of the classic 1943 version of *The Phantom of the Opera* in which sections of the symphony were plucked from the score and rescored as an opera. I know people who are forever doomed to remember *Elvira Madigan* only because it used Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21, and the critically-acclaimed biopic *Shine* only because it used Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3 to such great effect.

The 1999 Reith Lectures
Radio 4, 8pm

Tradition is the theme of tonight's lecture by Anthony Giddens, Director of the LSE. He doesn't make the point himself but this year's lectures exemplify what happens when one tradition gives way to another. Ever since the lectures began in 1948, the pattern has remained unchanged. The lecturer would sit in a studio, read his script and that was that. Last year the lectures underwent a dramatic change. They were given before a live audience and ended with a question-and-answer session. This year's series have taken another step forward. They were recorded in different locations. Tonight, it's Delhi and the grounds of the house once occupied by Pandit Nehru, first Prime Minister of an independent India. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** John Peel **12.00** Gilles Peterson **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** Giants of Soul: The Temptations (4/8) **10.00** Tom Paxton. Still Ramblin' (3/8) **10.30** Lynn Parsons **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night. European Cup semi-final, second leg between Juventus and Manchester United in Turin. Plus, updates on Liverpool v Leicester and Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle in the Premiership **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Let's Talk Pets **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** Off Side with Sebastian Coe **8.00** The Big Issues **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Sports International **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway **9.20** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.35** One Planet **10.00** World News **10.05** Sounds Right **10.20** Blues World **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Sports International **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** One Planet **3.30** Meridian Live **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** Jazzmatazz **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Performance **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** World News **8.05** One Planet **8.30** From Our Own Correspondent **8.45** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** On Screen **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** One Planet **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests **2.00pm** Concerto. Castelnuovo-Tedesco (Guitar Concerto No 1 in D) major **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Clarke/Purcell (Trumpet Tune); Boccherini (Cello Concerto No 4 in C major), Beethoven (Fantasia for Piano Chorus and Orchestra in C minor), Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A major), Smetana (Vltava), Allegri (Miserere) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto. Castelnuovo-Tedesco (Guitar Concerto No 1 in D major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

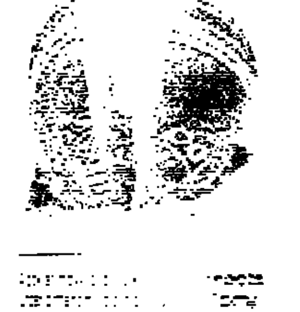
RADIO 3

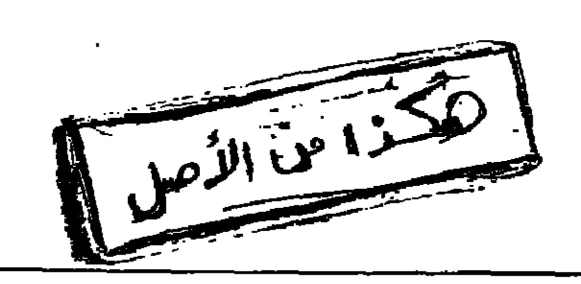
6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny with arts news and music
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Corelli (Sonata a quattro, WoO 4); Telemann (Overture-Suite in D); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat, K595); Schulhoff (Concertino); Corelli (Concerto grosso in C minor, Op 6 No 3)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Gwyneth Jones
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Great Rivers The Po
12.00 Composer of the Week: Stanford
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert John Lill, piano. Beethoven (Piano Sonata in D, Op 10 No 3); Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 6, Op 82) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras See Choice
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Director of music James Thomas. Assistant director of music Michael Bawtree
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by Andrew Parrott, who was recently appointed music director of the London Mozart Players
7.30 Performance on 3: John McCabe at 60 Live from the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's concert celebrating the 60th birthday of John McCabe. With Judith Howarth, soprano, under Adrian Leaper. Brahms (Variations on a Theme of Haydn); McCabe (Notturni ed alba) **8.15** John McCabe. Piers Burton-Page talks to John McCabe about his life and work **8.35** Concert, part two. Ravel (Sheherazade); McCabe (Concerto for orchestra)
9.35 Postscript: Private View Introduced by Nicholas Ward Jackson (3/5) (r)
10.00 The Piano Weekly series in which Piers Lane investigates the world of the piano past and present. A look at a hundred years of playing the piano French style
11.00 Night Waves As the long-awaited publication of J.H. Prynne's *Collected Poems* makes his work widely available for the first time in three decades, Patrick Wright explores the work and reclusive reputation of the man some consider to be Britain's most important poet
11.30 Jazz Notes In the second part of his conversation with Alyn Shipton, Oscar Peterson remembers some of his great jazz friendships, including the late Dizzy Gillespie
12.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod **12.15** Mozart (Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K491) **12.45** Lassus (Certa fortiter) **12.50** Padre Davide da Bergamo (La Vera Piva Montanara) **1.00** Aram Khachaturian conducts Aldo Ferraresi (violin) and the Italian RSO in his own music **2.05** Schubert (Piano Quintet in A, D667, Trout) **2.45** Bach (Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV542, Great) **3.00-4.00** Schools: Time and Tune **3.20** Together **3.40** Dance Workshop **4.00** EAL Playtime **4.20** Counting Time **5.05** Leopold Hoffmann (Flute Concerto in D) **5.25** Weber (Grand duo concertant, Op 48) **5.45** Offenbach (The Doll's Song, The Tales of Hoffmann)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents
6.00 Today with James Naughtie and John Humphrys
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update on political developments
9.00 Midweek with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (FM) Serial: Thoughts of an Idle Fellow Hugh Laurie reads *On Being in Love*, by Jerome K. Jerome (3/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests. Includes part 13 of *Diary of a Provincial Lady*, by E.M. Delafield
11.00 Inside Track The steam engine designer Willie Dewar accompanies Adam Fowler to South Africa on a mission to seek out the locomotives he helped to build 50 years ago (r)
11.30 Bristow New series. Adaptation of Frank Dickens's classic cartoon strip, starring Michael Williams, Rodney Bewes and Owen Brenman (1/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours with Trixie Rawlinson and Mark Whittaker
1.00 The World at One With Nick Clarke
1.30 Points of Law Popular legal quiz, chaired from Lincoln's Inn by Richard Evans. With Mark Stephens and Eileen Pembridge
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: John Dodd Gets Taken for a Ride Richard Lumsden's tale of a man with learning difficulties whose humdrum routine is considerably enlivened by his visiting uncle. Peter Gunn and Rowena Cooper star (r)
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Pippa Greenwood, John Cushnie and Nigel Colborn field horticultural questions posed by gardeners from the Isle of Man. Chaired by Eric Robson (r)
3.30 A Week at the Pitt Rivers The author P.D. James visits the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford to learn more about a Fijian necklace featured in her novel *The Children of Men* (3/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 78 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 Thinking Allowed Laurie Taylor is joined by Stan Cohen, Martin White Professor of Sociology to explore ideas that shape our society
4.30 Case Notes with Graham Easton (r)
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 King Street Junior Jim Eldridge's comedy drama set in a junior school (4/6) (r)
7.00 The Archers The latest events from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row John Wilson attends the world premiere of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Ted Hughes's *Tales of Ovid*
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady Part 13 of E.M. Delafield's household journal. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The 1999 Reith Lectures See Choice (3/5)
9.00 Altered States Neuroscientists, doctors and the entertainer Paul McKenna discuss the effect of hypnosis on the brain (r)
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds by Susan Hill, read by Joanna David (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Old Harry's Game Andy Hamilton's award-winning comedy, set in Hell, starring James Grout and Jimmy Mulville (5/6)
11.30 (FM) I'm Glad You Asked Me That Offbeat guide to modern living (4/6) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political round-up
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis Part three, written by P.F. Kluge (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe





A whole new meaning to fly-on-the-wall

It is heartwarming to see that a contrite BBC — after its insubordination in allowing John Simpson to file reports from Belgrade which Downing Street found offensive — is trying to make amends by helping Gordon Brown to stamp down resurgent house price inflation by the novel means of letting us glimpse Haringey council's environmental health officers at work.

After watching BBC1's new series **A Life of Grime**, the only people who'll be rushing to make offers on property in this part of North London will be those who are deeply fascinated by exotic wildlife, but who can't be bothered to actually visit London Zoo.

All animal life is here, most of it *in the kitchen and under the bath mat. A Life Of Grime* is the sort of programme that makes you wonder why naturalists struggle in the malarial heat of South American rainforests when they could uncover as many species of insect life in Tottenham and Hornsey.

It comes as no surprise to discover that this series is made by BBC Bristol: the cockroaches crawling over the tandoori in Tottenham were filmed as lovingly as if *this were a David Attenborough* natural history documentary. A tray of raw onions was covered in a cloth harbouring so many bacteria that it would qualify for its own scientific research grant. A pile of poppadoms was speckled with mouse droppings, not black mustard seeds as you hoped. It can't have been purely down to luck that this series is being broadcast after most people will have eaten.

When a health officer emerges from a small council flat housing *five dogs and 15 cats, she reports* that: "There are dog faeces in the living room. The cats are going bald. There's a flea problem", while her colleague swabs her hands and legs with sufficient antiseptics to prepare her for surgery.

Strangely, the case that should have been the most disquieting was the most heartening. Edmund Trebus, an 81-year-old Polish war veteran who has been living in Crouch End for the past 25 years, *has filled all but ten square feet of* his five-bedroom house and its garden with rubbish. Even the loo is full of it, which means that while some dogs in Haringey are allowed the luxury of pooping indoors, Mr Trebus finds a space in his garden.

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Mr Trebus won't let Haringey's health officers clear the garbage. What makes all this encouraging is that if you can survive in such insani*tary surroundings to the age of 81,* then we needn't waste our money on all those antibacterial sprays they keep advertising on TV.

It used to be journalists who roamed the world giving everyone the impression that the most important aspect of any story was the fact that they had come to report it. *Today TV personalities have taken* over this conceit. "Celebrities" now descend on an institution — a leading opera house, a football team, etc — and expect to be allowed not just to find out how it *is done, but actually to be allowed* to do it, even if this jeopardises the reputation for efficiency/success/artistic merit that the institution has taken years to polish.

A betting man would wager that the manager of the Taj hotel in *Bombay had agreed only under* sufferance to the request from BBC1's **Holiday** to let David Gower and Rory McGrath serve as butlers to the Taj's VIP guests. This was a man who would sooner eat his own liver than let mice make doo-doos on his poppadoms. So while Gower and McGrath found it amusing that room-service orders were cocked up, each slip-up stung their new boss like a stab wound. To them it was a jape for a TV show; to him it was his life.

About halfway through their trial it must have occurred to the two Brits that their behaviour was patronising; or maybe their professionalism got the better of them. But just as they had stopped acting like goons for the camera, Gower was recognised by some of Bombay's beautiful people — including former cricketers — who were attending a ritzy publishing party in one of the Taj's suites. They turned Gower into a non-butlering fellow guest. So, once again, the boss wasn't pleased (but now nor was McGrath). Still, it did whet your appetite for a stay at the Taj — which is presumably why the hotel agreed to the prank in the first place.

The Decision (Channel 4) opened up the social worker's casebook on Hayley, a 15-year-old who goes ahead with having a baby against her separated parents wishes — neither of whom wants *anything to do with* her. Hayley is no longer with the baby's father, hasn't any money, has no home and is relying on the social services to make her chaos more comfortable. They give her a flat in Newcastle. This dispiriting film — the first of Oliver Morse's three-part series shadowing children and their social workers — doesn't seek to nudge you into wondering why taxpayers should foot the bill for Hayley. But then nor does it strain to nudge you into acknowledging that society would be in an even bigger mess if we did not help the Hayleys.

In Melinda Messenger's newest series on Channel 5, a game show called **Can We Still Be Friends?**, former couples get to win prizes by dishing dirt on former partners and rehashing the animosities that drove them apart. Is it that nobody *else apart from Melinda* Messenger wants to present Channel 5 shows, or does Channel 5 *just love Melinda so much that it* gives her first dibs on every new show they commission? If it's the latter, why doesn't Channel 5 just go the whole hog and change its logo to a picture of Melinda's swollen cleavage, accompanied by a new station catchphrase: "Our cups runneth over".

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (24537)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (46686)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9738266)
9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (369957)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (4069150)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5682570)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9809599)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (4443042)
12.00 Going for a Song (2736529)
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (9586006)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11399624)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (49773)
1.30 Regional News; *Weather (58737976)*
1.40 Neighbours Sarah gets an embarrassing surprise (T) (16988773)
2.05 Through the Keyhole (T) (51331599)
2.30 Snooker: World Championship Further coverage of day five. Presented *by Dougie Donnelly (7316570)*
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8272570) **3.45** Starhill Ponies (4806334) **3.55** *Hububb (5378599)* **4.10** *Shirley Holmes* (7038792) **4.35** The Demon Headmaster (7277315) **5.00** Newsround (5209112) *5.10 Blue Peter (2060711)*
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (242112)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (792)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (604)



A look at how a cricket ball reacts under different conditions (7pm)

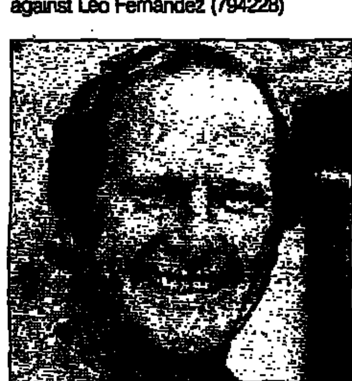
7.00 CHOICE **Tomorrow's World** Peter Snow takes a look at the science of bowling in cricket (T) (9841)
7.30 EastEnders The police play the video tape (T) (228)
8.00 Changing Rooms The interior design challenge visits Eltham (r) (T) (5889)
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (T) (524334)
8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits Toyah provides the live music as Angela *Griffin presents the draw* (T) *(426353)*
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (983976)
9.34 National Lottery Update (237957)
9.35 Men Behaving Badly Questions are raised over Tony's sexuality, jeopardising *Gary's hopes of indulging in a spot of* male bonding (r) (T) (275082)
10.00 They Think It's All Over (T) (32334)
10.30 **Harry Enfield's Television Programme** Comedy (r) (T) (249605)
11.05 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross Includes reviews of *8mm* and *Message in a Bottle* (T) (634889)
11.35 To Protect and Serve (1992) Premiere. FILM An honest cop witnesses a vicious case of police brutality ending in death, and soon fears for his own life. Thriller, starring C. Thomas Howell. *Directed by Eric Weston (T) (211792)*
12.55am Weather (1059613)
1.00 BBC News 24 (7931667)

WALES

9.30-9.34 Party Election Broadcast (T) (237957) **12.55am-1.00 News** (1059613)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: *Noddy in Toyland* (48044) **7.30** Top Cat (8771841) **7.55** French Exchange (8036334) **8.18** Rewind (9905247) **8.20** *Dastardly and Muttley* (4181957) **8.45** Polka Dot Shorts (1871063) **8.50** Pingu (1863044) **8.55** Small Stories (1862315) **9.00** Geography Programme Shorts (4762353) **9.10** Numbertime (4759889) **9.25** Folk Dance (9304995) **9.45** Words and Pictures (7112315) **10.00** Teletubbies (33624) **10.30** Numbertime (3760860) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3765315) **11.00** Number Adventures (1667150) **11.20** Geography Programme (6113421) **11.40** Science in Action (2018889) **12.00** Shakespeare: The Animated Tales (39247) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (57131) **1.00** Brum (38962353)
1.10 Snooker: World Championship Dougie Donnelly presents the morning's action (9104518)
2.30 Beautiful Things (5085150)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8054957)
2.45 Westminster (T) (7400678)
3.55 News; Weather (T) (7842773)
4.00 Snooker: World Championship David Vine presents further coverage from Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (6518)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Sci-fi adventure (r) (T) (938315)
6.45 Snooker: World Championship Ronnie O'Sullivan opens his campaign against Leo Fernandez (794228)



Dennis Waterman introduces a history of snooker (7.30pm)

7.30 CHOICE **Leviathan** Dennis Waterman looks back at how the game of snooker has developed (T) (570)
8.00 CHOICE **The Naked Chef** Jamie Oliver cooks up a meal for his sister's hen night (T) (6131)
8.30 Home Front Anne McKevitt's idea for a futuristic kitchen (T) (5266)
9.00 Red Dwarf Kryten takes revenge for *Lister's dodgy advice (T) (4632)*
9.30 Snooker: World Championship David Vine follows the progress of Ronnie *O'Sullivan as his first-round match* continues (1766686)
10.33 Video Nation Shorts (T) (557266)
10.35 Newsnight *(T) (344599)*
11.25 The Pull of the City Increased optimism in London. Last in series (3/3) (648082)
11.55 Weather (291518)
12.00 Despatch Box (86445)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Sickle Cell — A Lethal Advantage **1.00** The KT Event **1.30** The Nature of Impacts and their Impacts on Nature **2.00** Schools: *Primary PSHE — Who, Me?* **4.00** Languages: The Business Language Special **5.00** *Business and Training: So You Want to* Work in Social Care? **5.30** 20 Steps to Better Management — Motivating People *5.45 Open University: Nerves 6.10 Insect* Hormones. The Control of Moulting **6.35** Regulation and Control

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (37599)
6.00 GMTV (2671976)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3324247)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49931315)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (7894599)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (2418353)
12.55 Shortland Street Rachael finds a new flatmate (1577131)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16984957)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous *American talk show* (T) (5842315)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2831570)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5549266)
3.15 HTV News *(T) (5548537)*
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5538150) **3.25** The Story Store (6563686) **3.40** Jumanji (2262605) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (7836112) **4.35** Wildtrack (7295711)
5.00 Catchphrase (r) (T) (4773)
5.30 WEST: Live and Local Richard Wyatt and Polly Lloyd report from a different location in the region each week (247)
5.30 WALES: Get Gardening! New series. Horticultural magazine (T) (247)
5.58 HTV Weather (837570)
6.00 HTV News (T) (860)
6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast By *the Natural Law Party of Wales* (461686)
6.29 Crimestoppers (461686)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (112)
7.00 Coronation Street Roy and Hayley's big day arrives (T) (4537)



Can Andy Cole save the Reds' ***European campaign? (7.30pm)***

7.30 CHOICE **The Big Match — Live!** Juventus v *Manchester United* (kick-off **7.45pm**). Bob Wilson introduces coverage of the European Cup semi-final *second-leg match at the Stadio delle Alpi* in Turin. Including the National Lottery result. Subsequent programmes may run *late (T) (997112)*
10.00 Their Worst Nightmares: Sports Commentators Magic moments from *the masters of the microphone (T) (2889)*
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (919082)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (804711)
11.30 The Big Match Champions' League semi-final highlights (678063)
12.35am Farewell My Lovely (1975) Robert FILM Mitchum, as Raymond Chandler's world-weary gumshoe Philip Marlowe, is hired to search for an ex-convict's missing sweetheart. Thriller, with Charlotte Rampling. Directed by Dick Richards (121377)
2.20 The Big Match Bayern *Munich* v *Dynamo Kiev* (521280)
4.05 The Making of What Dreams May Come Behind the scenes of *Robin* Williams's new film (68798209)
4.35 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (42039716)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (71174)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (9012228)
12.55 Lie Detector (2493044)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4667860)
2.10-2.40 Echo Point (89630131)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5548537)
5.30 Shortland Street (247)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (860)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (804711)
4.05am Central Jobfinder '99 (8106358)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9269342)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (7894599)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9020247)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (2493044)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4667860)
2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (89630131)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (5548537)
4.59-5.00 Birthday People (6744632)
5.30 Mad About Shopping (247)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live (860)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (804711)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7894599) **5.30 Wildlife SOS** (1/13) (247) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (860) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (514537) **11.20-11.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (804711) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (71174)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9025792) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7894599) **5.29 Anglia Air Watch** (7076452) **5.30-6.00 Whipsnade** (13/13) (T) (247) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (860) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (411150) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (804711)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (86091570) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69667711) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (63128537) **9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (37404179) **9.45 Book Box** (37492334) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (62305860) **10.15 All About Us** (62328711) **10.30 The Number Crew** (39679421) **10.45 Pitch Fever** (39674976) **11.00 First Edition** (25052247) **11.15 The X File** (25035570) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90379605) **12.00 Home Improvement** (T) (63108773) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (93099841) **1.00 Planed Plant** *(T) (69637570) 1.30* **The Three Stooges** (r) (T) (99903841) **1.55 Racing from Epsom** (15032599) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) *(99039131) 4.30* **Ricki Lake** *(T) (99035315)* **5.00 Planed Plant** (41417228) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99059995) **6.00 Party** *Election Broadcast (T) (70878599) 6.05* **Newyddion 6** (T) (70860570) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39364860) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41420792) *7.30 Darllediad Etholiadol (T) (56558995)* **7.35 Newyddion** (T) (31990711) **8.05 Pfermio** (T) (84353266) **8.35 Hawlio** (T) (52552131) **9.05 ER** (T) (54647808) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (51874860) **10.35 Eurotrash** (r) (T) (81866063) **11.05 Spin City** (T) (85411266) **11.35 The 11 O'Clock Show** (67001995) **12.05am Paul Zenon Turning Tricks** (84705648) **1.05 Exposed: Wedding** (T) (81021754) **1.20 F3 on 4** (89261193) **1.50 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (48771532) **4.05 Trans World Sport** (54644700) **5.00 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (17247)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (62624)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (44179) **9.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (7119228) **9.45** Book Box (7130711) **10.00** Stage Two Science (1305570) **10.15** All About Us (1328421) **10.30** The Number Crew *(3771976) 10.40 Pitch Fever (9218266)* **11.00** First Edition V (6104773) **11.15** The X File (6127624)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (6353)
12.00 Sesame Street (r) (T) (24315)
12.30pm Bewitched (T) (59599)
1.00 Caroline in the City Caroline and Annie find romance on a skiing trip (65711)
1.30 The Three Stooges (r) (T) (16982599)
1.55 Racing from Epsom Including the **2.05** J&E Hall Stakes (H'cap), **2.35** Schroder Unit Trusts Blue Riband Trial Stakes, **3.10** Stanley Racing, Great Metropolitan Stakes (H'cap), and the **3.45** Radford and Linde City and Suburban Stakes (H'cap) (69235624)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (353)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7294082)
4.55 Ricki Lake Three teenage alcoholics undergo treatment (T) (9049315)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (889)
6.00 Dawson's Creek Chris holds a study group at his house, but it ends up turning into a party, giving the gang an excuse to quiz each other about their sexual experiences (T) (947063)
6.50 T4orce *Highlights from* last week's T4 programmes (987334)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (417792)
7.55 New Labour, New Language Donna McPhail wonders what has happened to Tony Blair's female MPs (T) (367841)
8.00 **Brookside** Ryan is arrested (T) *(8599)*
8.30 She's Gotta Have It Liza Tarbuck and the team visit London, where they transform three lucky ladies into chic, sporty types (2/10) (T) (6614)
9.00 ER Carol encourages a terminal cancer patient to smoke cannabis, and Elizabeth decides to take Maggie's side in the forthcoming sexual harassment case against Romano (T) (8024)



A new series of the political comedy with Michael J. Fox (centre) (10pm)

10.00 CHOICE **Spin City** Michael finally finds fame, although not entirely in *the way he might have hoped* (T) (25044)
10.30 Eurotrash Continental capers with Antoine de Caunes (r) (T) (34792)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show Topical comedy with Iain Lee and co (7605)
11.30 So Graham Norton With Fern Britton. Last in series *(r) (374150)*
12.10am 4 Later: Party Monster (2063629)
1.20 F3 on 4 Formula Three racing (2696731)
1.50 Football Italia — Mezzanotte Serie A action (22063716)
4.05 Trans World Sport (2507464)
5.00 Electric Avenue The friendship of two budding boxers (3/4) (r) (T) (79716)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky *Anderson (5532537)*
7.00 WideWorld Part four. How to record the present for future generations (r) (T) *(2482353)*
7.30 Milkshake! (2270711)
7.35 Muppet Babies, 5 News Update *(4601624)*
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8481957)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r), 5 News Update (8480228)
9.00 The Roseanne Show (5194266)
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (T) (8502599)
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful Brooke pleads with Grant (T) (8338518)
10.20 Sunset Beach Caitlin comes clean to Cole (T) (4894179)
11.10 Leeza (3559044)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8484044)
12.30pm Family Affairs Pete gets his *belongings back (r) (T); 5 News Update* (7633583)
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Oprah meets *Tina Turner (4452605)*
1.50 McMillan and Wife: The Fine Art of Staying Alive (TVM 1973) FILM A cunning *kidnapper holds Mrs McMillan to ransom,* bargaining her life for a valuable Rembrandt painting. Light-hearted *mystery, with Rock Hudson. Directed by* Ed Abrams; 5 News Update (28594112)
3.15 Sphinx (1981) A female Indiana Jones FILM *braves a series of dangers as she* explores an Ancient Egyptian tomb. Starring Lesley-Anne Down. Directed by *Franklin H. Schaffner (60908860)*
5.20 5 News (T) (59893605)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6789808)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including *First on Five* (T) (6779421)
6.30 Family Affairs Pam has a mystery admirer (T); 5 News Update (6760773)
7.00 Police Squad Spoof cop comedy, starring Leslie Nielsen (2796957)
7.30 Aussie Birds How the kingfisher and kookaburra have adapted to the Outback (T); 5 News Update (6766957)
8.00 Peggy Sue Got Married (1986) FILM Depressed fortysomething Kathleen Turner faints at a high-school reunion and awakes to find that she has travelled back to 1960, where she meets her future husband — whom she is planning to divorce in the present day. Francis Ford Coppola's comedy (T) (9941112)
10.00 Basic Instinct (1991) Steamy thriller, FILM starring Michael Douglas as a hard-drinking cop who investigates a grisly murder — only to be slowly drawn into the arms of the chief suspect Sharon Stone. Directed by Paul Verhoeven (T) (84507266)
12.20am Not the Jack Docherty Show With guests Nik Kershaw and Howard Jones (7272358)
1.00 Live and Dangerous: Major League Baseball Live Jonathan Gould and Todd Macklin present live coverage of a top US baseball game (2079006)
4.30 Live and Dangerous: Australian Rules Football Bone-crunching action from Down Under (3125862)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6576087)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (99792) **7.30** Godzilla (85599) **8.00** *Pokemon (70518)* **8.30** Hollywood Squares (79889) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (96266) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (98781) **11.00** Guilty! (94247) **12.00** Jenny Jones (10624) **1.00pm** Mad About You (98063) **1.30** Jeopardy (90850) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (52773) **3.00** Jenny Jones (18792) **4.00** Guilty! (47529) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (6150) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (4044) **6.30** Friends (8624) **7.00** The Simpsons (4179) **7.30** The Simpsons (4808) **8.00** Mortal Kombat: Conquest (55711) **9.00** The X Files (42247) **10.00** Miami Uncovered (45334) **11.00** Friends (97088) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (77353) **12.30am** Law and Order (58342) **1.30** Long Play (4332445)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Deconstructing Harry (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Titanic (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Hard Rain (1998)

SKY PREMIER

3.00am *The Directors: The Films of Joel* Schumacher (59247) **7.00 Forever Love (1998)** (81798976) **8.35 Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979)** (21037686) **10.45** The Fifth Element (1997) (93939112) **12.50pm The Alamo: 13 Days to Glory (TVM 1987)** (76820421) **3.35 Forever** *Love (1998) (643686) 5.20* **Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979)** (29591589) **7.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (7518) **8.00 The Fifth Element (1997)** (59537) **10.00 The Full Monty (1997)** (948860) **11.40 Never Talk to Strangers (1995)** (227228) **1.10am Backdraft (1991)** (92128377) **3.25 Stealing Beauty** *(1995) (68313667)*

SKY MOVIEMAX

.25am A Message from Holly (1992) (17689537) **7.00 Chasing Secrets (1998)** (30044) **9.00 Inside Out (1975)** (63889) **11.00 Friendship's Field (1996)** (21605) **1.00 Chasing Secrets (1998)** (67605) **3.00 Inside Out (1975)** (48841) **5.00 Friendship's Field (1996)** (89266) **7.00 In My Sister's Shadow (1997)** (45266) **8.30** E! News Week in Review (7402) **9.00 Ice (1998)** (50266) **11.00 Death Warrant (1990)** (62773) **12.30am Medusa's Child — Part One (1997)** (35006) **2.00 Exception to the Rule (1996)** (773716) *3.40* **Any Place But Home (1996)** (749357)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Hanging Tree (1957) (7094605) **6.00 Tarzan and the Slave Girl (1950)** (4607008) **8.00 The Ballad of Cable Hogue (1970)** (9657501) **10.00 Madigan (1968)** (7316286) **11.45 The Thief Who Came to Dinner (1973)** (7875353) **1.30am Dark Past (1948)** (88962358) **2.50 The Devil and Miss Jones (1941)** (2836209) **4.25 I'll Be Seeing You (1944)** (7530813)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Robin and Marian (1976) (65150889) **7.50** The Hull to Hornsea (5998976) **8.00 Subway (1985)** (33452131) *9.45 Rooftop (2850044)* **10.00 Pusher (1996)** (7019044) **11.55 The Quick and the Dead (1995)** (5314841) **1.45am Rabid (1976)** (4559754) **3.20 A Private Function (1984)** (2954349) **4.50 Monster from Green Hell (1957)** (2206803) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Passage to Marseille (1944) (93025773) **11.00 The Wings of Eagles (1957)** (90005353) **1.00am Green Mansions (1959)** (90053377) **3.00 Passage to Marseille** (1944) (84368209) *5.00 Close*

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Inside Scottish Football *11.00 Rugby League Academy* **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** Football League **2.00** Asian Golf Show **3.00** Inside Scottish Football **4.00** Watersports World **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Unbelievable Sports **7.00** World Pool League **8.00** *Ringside 9.30 European Tour Golf Weekly* **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** World Pool League **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Rugby League World **2.30** Ringside **4.00** Sports Centre **4.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Volleyball **12.00** Golf Extra **2.00pm** X-Zone **2.30** *Live International One-Day Cricket* **10.30** Australian Rally Championship **11.00** Golf Extra **1.00am** Watersports World **2.00** X-Zone **2.30** World Pool League **3.30** *Sports Centre 3.45 Close*

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Wrestling **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Tales From the Premiership **2.30** Boxing Superbouts **3.30** Volleyball **5.30** Australian Rally Championship **6.00** European Tour Golf Weekly **6.30** Golf Extra **8.30** Rugby League World **10.00** FA Cup Final Classics **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Superbikes **8.30** Cart **9.30** Live Tennis **4.00pm** Live Football **6.00** Start Your Engines **7.00** Live Football **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Fitness **11.00** Start Your Engines **12.00** Four Wheels Drive **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **5.00** *Dangerfield 6.00 Dynasty 7.00* Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Men Behaving Badly **10.20** Hamish Macbeth **11.25** The Bill **11.55** The Bill **12.25am** Between the Lines **1.20** Dad's Army **1.55** Dad's Army **2.25** *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em 3.00 Shopping* with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** Plus On Plus **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The *Sweeney 10.00 Hale and Pace 10.30 The* Comedians **11.00** Men and Motors



Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio star in James Cameron's *Titanic*, the most successful film of all time (Sky Box Office 3)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** Animal SOS **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Blues and Twos **8.30** Superchefs **9.00** Soldier, Soldier **10.00** Pie in the Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30am** Gridlock *1.00 Close*

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New *Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.07** Animal Shelf **9.17** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.12** Rosie and Jim **10.30** Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.07pm** Animal Shelf **12.17** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size *1.12 Rosie and Jim 1.30 Big Garage* **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Mr Headmistress (TVM 1998)** **8.30** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.15** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Dennis and *Gnasher 8.00 Hero Turtles: The Next* Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** EekIStravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: *The New Adventures of the Jungle Book* **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** *Goosebumps 4.25 Hero Turtles: The Next* Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver *Stories 11.00 The Magic School Bus* **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** *Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine* **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship *Wrestling 10.30 Erotic Confessions 11.00* **FILM: Beneath the Valley of the Ultra Vixens (1979)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: The Howling (1980)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** Twilight Zone **12.30pm** Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** *Mysteries, Magic and Miracles* **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Space Precinct **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** VR5 *9.00 Lexx 10.00* **FILM: Spaceballs (1987)** **12.00** PSI Factor **1.00am FILM: Falling Fire (1997)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Gimme Shelter **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with *Bob Vila 3.00 This Old House with Steve* and Norm **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Diceman **5.00** Rogues' Gallery **6.00** Outback Adventures **6.30** Kenya's Killers **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Lost Treasures of the Ancient World **9.00** Runaway Trains **10.00** Three Minutes to Impact **11.00** Three Minutes to Impact **12.00** Superstructures *1.00am Flightline 1.30 Diceman 2.00 Close*

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** The Blue Beyond **2.00** The Blue Beyond **3.00** Secrets of the Humpback Whale **4.00** Ocean Wilds **4.30** Champions of the Wild *5.00 Wild Rescues 6.00 Pet Rescue* **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Lord of the Eagles **7.30** Alligator! **8.30** Black Market Birds **9.00** Titanic Special Titanic **10.00** Titanic Special Treasures of the Titanic **10.30** Shipwrecks. U-Boats — Terror on the Shores **11.00** Sulphur Slaves **11.30** The Nuba of Sudan **12.00** *Chasing the Midnight Sun*

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: Shadows of the Six Day War **5.00** Classic Cars: BMW **6.00** Project Underworld **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** Tales of the Gun: Tommy Gun

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** From the Ground Up **10.30** So You Think You Can't Cook **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** A Year at Ballymaloe **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **2.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Loyd's Louisiana **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Simply Baking **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Bebaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny *and Crew 8.50 Practical* Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 *7.35 Animal Rescue* **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Deadly Desire (1991)** **11.30** Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Lolly Pop **5.30** Hey Ha Ho **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith Christian **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Sofia **11.00** Khoobhurat **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM: Urdu Movie: Arzoo** **3.00pm** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Filmi Chakkar **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Mausam **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baat Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Urdu Drama **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00** News **12.30am** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00 FILM: Tamil Movie: Nadool Mannan** **4.30** Narsayo



LONDON MARATHON

The full list of finishers continues on pages 48 and 49

SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1999

TENNIS



Chips are down for Henman in Monte Carlo

United manager ponders which cards to play as Giggs is forced to sit out training

Ferguson may have to discard ace in the pack

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN TURIN

EVEN after the plane had come to a standstill and the *rest of the passengers* had disembarked, Ryan Giggs, Gary Neville, Nicky Butt and Teddy Sheringham stayed on the empty aircraft determined to finish their game of cards.

This is not a trip for abandoning any kind of contest halfway through. This, they and their team-mates know, is the time when they have to go for broke.

If Manchester United fail against Juventus in the great concrete bowl of the Stadio delle Alpi tonight, recriminations and regrets will cloud the remainder of their season and pursue them into the next millennium, no matter what domestic honours they manage to prise away from Arsenal.

This is what they have been building towards for as long as most of them can remember, *the essence of the obsession* nurtured since Alex Ferguson brought it within their compass to emulate Sir Matt Busby and his team by winning the European Cup.

It is so close now that they can almost reach out and grasp it, but with its proximity comes the dread of what defeat would mean and the desperation to achieve what few teams have done by beating the Italian champions in front of their own supporters.

To get this close and fail, as they did against Borussia Dortmund in the last days of Eric Cantona, to have to start the quest all over again next season, when Peter Schmeichel will have gone, is almost unthinkable.

They know that Juventus appear to have timed their season to perfection after six months of unfamiliar mediocrity and that Edgar Davids and Zinedine Zidane are two of the most formidable opponents that they will come across.

Ferguson, who spoke about the conundrum of coping with the "Zidane thing", also knows, after their shaky 1-1 draw in the first leg of the semi-finals a fortnight ago, that they must score here if they are to progress to the final in the Nou Camp on May 26.

Last night, though, it seemed increasingly likely that United would have to try *to reach their target without* Giggs. The inspirational winger sat forlornly on a green box in the empty shell of the stadium during United's evening training session, his ankle heavily strapped.

His loss would be a particularly savage blow after his *tour de force* against Arsenal propelled Manchester United into the FA Cup Final last week. He would have gone into the game tonight feeling as though he could take on the world. Now, it seems that his place will be taken by Jesper Blomqvist or Paul Scholes. That will increase the importance of the contribution of Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, *the prolific striking partners* who have fallen strangely quiet. Yorke, the European Cup's leading scorer, has not scored since the middle of March. Neither has Cole.

Ferguson has dropped Cole from United's past two league games. Yorke, too, has been used sparingly. Some of his critics have suggested that he has grown complacent after a gilded start to his United career, which has yielded 26 goals this season. In his absence, Teddy Sheringham has reminded Ferguson what a skilful provider he can still be.

Ferguson's treatment of Yorke and Cole will have remedied any motivational deficiencies that may have crept into their games. Both were bristling with indignation and determination when they arrived in Italy yesterday. "I was disappointed with my own performance in the first leg," Yorke said. "It was my worst performance since I arrived at United. It was just one of those days. Everything had been going so well and it was such a shame that on one of the biggest occasions, I didn't perform. Hopefully, I will be given another chance and I will put that right. I don't think I have anything to prove but I do have to help to get a result."

Cole needs little motivation, apart from the gnawing memories of the chances that he and Cantona missed against Dortmund at Old Trafford. His profligacy that night seemed to have closed the debate about his ability to take opportunities at this rarefied level, but his performances, this season in particular, have caused many to change their minds.

"I took a lot of the blame after that match," Cole said, "but I am used to it. I have improved as a player since then. I judge myself more than anyone else judges me. I have got better and will continue getting better but I am too old to worry about what people say about me these days. I laugh stuff like that off now.

"It has been hard to play in the last couple of games. I don't like it when people keep going on about how me and Dwight haven't scored for a few games. It shouldn't make any difference to anybody. People should realise we are still contributing."

Ferguson, who recalled that Urs Meier, the Swiss who is the referee tonight, ruled out two apparently legitimate United goals in the second leg of the match against Dortmund, remained optimistic.

"We will need a combination of many things," he said. "Luck comes into it, but the one dominant thing is that we are going to have to perform magnificently to win. It would be a marvellous achievement.

"We have progressed. I never quite thought we could win it two years ago, but we have learnt well. We are capable of recovering in important matches. That's a good sign."

MARC ASPLAND

Giggs, scorer of two of United's most important goals of the season but now nursing a heavily strapped left ankle, watches his team-mates train in the Stadio delle Alpi yesterday

JUVENTUS (probable: 4-4-1-1)

A Peruzzi
A Birindelli C Ferrara M Iuliano G Pessotto
A Conte D Deschamps E Davids A Di Livio
Z Zidane
F Inzaghi

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable: 4-4-2)

P Schmeichel
G Neville R Johnsen J Stam D Irwin
D Beckham R Keane N Butt J Blomqvist
D Yorke A Cole

Kick off: 7.45
TV: ITV - The Big Match Live (7.30pm)
RADIO: Radio 5 Live: John Inverdale's Football Night (7.30)
WEBSITES: www.manutd.com www.juventus.it
Referee: U Meier (Switz)

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SIMON BARNES ON PETER SCHMEICHEL: "My vote for footballer of the decade"

Proud Juventus can take heart from their glorious record

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN TURIN

UNDER Alex Ferguson, Manchester United's repeated attempts to reach the final of the European Cup have seemed like epic assaults on the highest mountain. Every year the last few steps have proved insurmountable. Brave men — Hughes and Ince — as well as brilliant footballers — Cantona and Kanchelskis — have failed to reach the summit.

Such a sequence of disappointments makes the achievements of Juventus all the more remarkable because tonight, in the Stadio delle Alpi, the Italian club can reach its fourth European Cup final in succession. The magnitude of the feat is such that only the mighty Real Madrid of the 1950s have managed it — they made it to five — and so it is *not only United who will feel* that history beckons.

United's 31-year wait to reach the final again has too often appeared a heavy burden but there was no sense yesterday that Juventus were weighed down by the baggage of history. "The past record is not a worry because this is the first time for me," Carlo Ancelotti, the coach, said. The players appear to share his equanimity. "The atmosphere is tranquil and serene," Antonio Conte, the captain, said and there was no evidence to the contrary among a squad of hardened and hungry professionals.

Their relaxation, in part, appears to stem from the knowledge that they are lucky to be here. They are unbeaten in this competition only *because of some outrageous* good fortune, but it appears only to have made them more determined to make the most of it now that they have survived this far. "It is easier for us to qualify for the Champions' League next season by winning it rather than finishing fourth in Serie A," Ancelotti said, and players such as Deschamps and Davids know exactly what it takes.

United supporters looking for reasons to be optimistic should probably stop reading now. In almost 150 European matches in Turin, Juventus have lost only seven times — Arsenal inflicted one of those rare defeats in 1980 — and they have scored in front of their own supporters in every European match in the past seven years. United, it must be *noted, have never won on* Italian soil.

Such records always come to an end, of course, but this Juventus side will prove tenacious defenders of such a formidable reputation. "We have a small edge at 1-1," Ancelotti said, "but that must only increase our determination. If we think it makes it easier for us, then the advantage will switch to them. We are in good shape for the game. The players, particularly Zidane, are fitter than at Old Trafford so I believe we can play for the entire 90 minutes as we did in the first half there."

Paolo Montero, the impressive Uruguay defender, is the only injury concern for Juventus, who expect a fast and furious game. Ancelotti is expected to field a side similar to that which could easily have been 3-0 up after half an hour in *Manchester. Their early* domination was largely down to the promptings of Zidane, who, as at Old Trafford, is expected to weave his passing webs behind a lone striker in Inzaghi.

United will have to demonstrate that they have learnt *from their tactical mistakes* by instructing one of the back four, rather than Keane, to pick up Zidane.

The Frenchman is understood to have been less than thrilled at the comments of Gianni Agnelli, the club's *owner, this week* which suggested that he is henpecked by his wife, but unless Mrs Zidane insists that her husband stays at home to do the dishes or vacuum the carpet, his presence alone will ensure that Juventus start the match as favourites. The Italians are bracing themselves for a tight, frenetic match and have practised penalties in case it finishes 1-1. "It will be close," Ancelotti admitted, but he did so with an air of calm.

UNITED'S EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINAL RECORD

1956-57: Real Madrid: 1-3 (*away*), 2-2 (home), agg 3-5.
After a club record 10-0 victory over Anderlecht in the preliminary round, United met their match in Real. Di Stefano, Kopa, Mateos et al ensured that the second leg of the semi-final at Old Trafford — the first European match at the ground under newly installed floodlights — *would be an anticlimax*

1957-58: AC Milan: 2-1 (home), 0-4 (away), agg 2-5.
On February 6, 1958, the Munich air disaster claimed the lives of eight United players. It destroyed United's strongest line-up and temporarily halted Sir Matt Busby's designs on the European Cup. *Only three regular first-team players* were in the team when, three months later, they secured an emotional victory over AC Milan at Old Trafford in the first leg of the semi-final. However, the likes of Schiaffino and Maldini secured Milan's aggregate success.

1965-66: Partizan Belgrade: 0-2 (away), 1-0 (home), agg 1-2.
George Best, outstanding against Benfica in the quarter-finals, was crucially injured for the second leg of the semi-final at Old Trafford. An own goal by Soskic, the visitors' goalkeeper, gave United hope but without Best's inspiration they were unable to pull back the two-goal *deficit from the first leg in Belgrade.*

1967-68: Real Madrid: 1-0 (home), 3-3 (away), agg 4-3.
Real's talents were by now on the decline but they had retained their glamour and this spellbinding tie captivated 183,000 spectators over the two legs. At half-time in the second leg, United were trailing 3-1 *(3-2 on aggregate)* when Busby's famous pep talk reminded them that just one more goal would see them through to the final. In fact, they managed two, the second from Bill Foulkes, an unlikely goal-scoring hero in one of his 679 appearances for the club.

1968-69: AC Milan: 0-2 (*away*), 1-0 (home), agg 1-2.
The previous season's triumph had ended United's search for the Holy Grail, but their attempts to defend the trophy failed. Amid dramatic scences at Old Trafford, a Bobby Charlton goal proved insufficient. Denis Law was convinced that his shot had crossed the line late in the *game, but it was not given.*

1996-97: Borussia Dortmund: 0-1 (away), 0-1 (home), agg 0-2.
Eric Cantona had proved the catalyst for so many United victories since his arrival from Leeds United but the European Cup had eluded him and his team-mates. The Frenchman was *instrumental in brushing aside the* challenge of FC Porto in the quarter-finals but produced two of his least effective performances in the games against Borussia Dortmund, the eventual winners

STEPHEN WOOD

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1697

ACROSS
1 Serrated-beaked bird, the merganser (7)
5 Tiny particle, patch of colour (5)
8 Excessive (5)
9 (Groves of) scholarly retreat (7)
10 Divinity (3)
11 Untruth (9)
12 Do it again! (6)
14 Gripping tool (6)
17 One given something (9)
18 Watch-chain: palm (off) (3)
19 A road surfacing (7)
20 Florida resort city (5)
21 Rhythm of poetry: unit of distance (5)
22 Outermost: very unusual (7)

DOWN
1 Bring in contraband (7)
2 Walked through water (5)
3 Anger (3)
4 Answerable (6)
5 A flute: a bean (9)
6 Ugly building (7)
7 Work, mould, with hands (5)
11 Hearth, grate (9)
13 Pilot's cabin (7)
15 Retreat, go down (7)
16 Acquire dentition (6)
17 Build up weapons again (5)
18 Signal light (5)
20 Protective pad: tangle of hair (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1696
ACROSS: 5 Horticulture 8 Frolic 9 Trilby 10 Urdu 12 Drapery 14 Charter 15 Bang 17 Mammal 18 Outlaw 20 Second nature
DOWN: 1 Thoroughfare 2 Oral 3 Rupture 4 Ethiopia 6 Inch 7 Robert Graves 11 Dartmoor 13 Ceilidh 16 Rota 19 Thug

